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THE TIMES

No. 65,852

TUESDAY APRIL 1 1997

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'Commons has draconian powers'

Expulsion for sleaze sought by Major

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND PHILIP WEBSTER

JOHN MAJOR issued a new warning last night to Neil Hamilton and other MPs involved in sleaze allegations that he will back their expulsion from Parliament and the Conservative Party if the charges against them are upheld.

The Prime Minister, in a letter to all constituency party chairmen, made it clear that he would accept their choice of election candidate — even when there were unresolved questions hanging over them.

He was confirming the reluctant abandonment by the Tory high command of its attempt to force the Tatton Conservative association to drop Mr Hamilton.

But it also amounted to a final appeal to the association and Mr Hamilton to think carefully before going into the election if they have any suspicions that the Downing report on cash-for-questions will find against him. He is to be formally adopted as candidate next Tuesday.

It is understood that Mr Major is frustrated by the refusal of the constituency association to ask Mr Hamilton to stand down, when his candidacy is clearly damaging the party. The Opposition parties have threatened to withdraw their own candidates and to back an anti-corruption figure.

But sources close to Mr Major said last night that without any power to force the association to change its stance, he could do no more than bring them face to face with the consequences of their actions.

Labour said the move proved Mr Major's impotence to deal with Tory problem MPs. John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader, said: "The Prime Minister seems to have run up the white flag. Tories rejected yesterday's plan to de-select Neil Hamilton so John Major has caved in to them."

Mr Major could have told Tatton not to select him, but he



"There's no sleaze today — it must be an April Fool"

doesn't have the confidence to do it. Mr Major's dithering has left us with the worst of all worlds.

Mr Major, writing about the Downing report, said: "All these many issues may be unresolved now but they won't remain unresolved for long. The Select Committee's report will be published and if it criticises Conservative MPs, I for one will wish Parliament to act quickly and decisively to uphold its reputation."

The House of Commons has draconian powers. The Conservative Party will support their use if criticism is severe enough to merit it. It can, of course, also withdraw the whip if that seems appropriate.

Informed sources said Mr Major was prepared to back expulsion. If any MP was thrown out of Parliament he would be the first for 50 years.

The sources said the letter was aimed at MPs involved in the accusations and their constituents. "Heaven help the MPs if they have been pulling the wool over our eyes," one said.

Mr Major wrote: "It has been suggested that I disband constituency associations and impose new candidates. But under our Conservative Party constitution the selection of a

candidate is the responsibility of the association — the decision to contest the seat is for the candidate."

Conservative sources admitted that the effort to force Mr Hamilton out had failed. A series of senior backbench MPs were used at the weekend to try to persuade him to go.

The changed mood within Tory ranks was reflected by Dame Jill Knight, a member of the Commons committee investigating cash for questions. Asked on Radio 4's *Today* programme how the Tories could reverse the damage of the past fortnight, she said: "I can tell you how we are not going to do it. We are not going to fly in the face of British justice and say a man is guilty because allegations have been made against him."

A spokesman for Conservative Central Office confirmed the position. "It is a matter for local associations and always has been," he said.

Douglas Hurd, the former foreign secretary, in a surprise intervention, called for the sleaze issue to be laid to rest. "It's time for the amusement arcade to close down," he said in a statement.

Mr Hurd, a respected Tory grandee, added: "Private lives are for individuals to sort out. Accusations of parliamentary abuse must be rigorously sifted by the procedures laid down. Neither should be at the heart of the election."

"Roughly every five years the British people have the chance to choose their Government. They are entitled from today to four weeks of serious debate on the sort of Britain they want. John Major has shown he is ready for this. It is now for other parties and the media to respond."

But Labour pressed home their advantage. Peter Mandelson, the party's campaign strategist, said that if Mr Hamilton remained, sleaze would dog the Tories until polling day.

Major's letter, page 2



Swampy: eco-tunneller and now — "if not in prison" — determined to undermine Labour in the general election

Swampy digs for poll victory

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

SWAMPY absented from the entrance of his tunnel 50ft up a sheer embankment on the wooded site of Manchester Airport's second runway to unveil his "Don't Fly, Don't Drive" election manifesto yesterday.

The eco-warrior, alias tunneller Daniel Hooper, kept the media waiting while he finished his favourite Pot Noodle snack before declaring his intention to stand for Parliament on behalf of the Never Mind the Ballots Party.

He aims to contest Blackley, the rock-solid Labour seat in north Manchester where the prospective Labour candidate is Graham Stringer, a political high flyer, former Manchester City Council leader, chairman of the airport board and the

target of much derision from the tree dwellers and tunnel diggers.

"We are deadly serious," said Swampy. "We have not got enough cash for a deposit as yet... we need £500 and we have two weeks to raise it."

"Our aim is to draw attention to the destruction being caused to the environment. I shall take time off from tunnelling to canvass in Blackley — provided I am not in prison. And I am happy to challenge Councillor Stringer to a televised debate."

Swampy, who carried his election banner reading "Dig for Victory", had already circulated the press with his ten-point manifesto and several of his sayings, such as "Democracy is more than a vote once every five years. It is about active participation." And:

"The expansion of Manchester Airport is sleazy Old Labour at its worst. It is an embarrassing stain on Tony Blair's credentials."

The front page of his manifesto carries a spoof photograph of Graham Stringer and Geoff Muirhead, the airport's chief executive, jokingly putting two fingers in the air. Inside, under a heading of "Don't Fly", he explains that a Government led by Prime Minister Swampy would stop subsidising the air industry, stop airport expansion, stop misleading claims for Runway 2 and stop internal flights.

Under the "Don't Drive" section, he would issue proclamations to start putting national targets on traffic reduction, start putting freight on rail, start revoking planning permission for out of town

shopping centres and start taxing parking.

Swampy's appearance at the press conference was in defiance of his bail conditions. He is due to appear in court later this month on a charge of criminal damage to a security fence. Bail was granted on condition that he stayed at least four miles away from the second runway site.

Panic as Clinton cuts aid for the single

FROM BRONWEN MADDOCK IN WASHINGTON

PANIC has seized immigration and welfare offices across the United States as tough rules come into effect today, cutting off government support from hundreds of thousands of people.

Under the Republican-backed welfare reform proposals signed by President Clinton last August, single, childless, able-bodied adults will have food stamps cut off unless they work at least 20 hours a week.

The stamps are also being withdrawn from thousands of legal immigrants and rules on immigration drastically tightened. That has prompted a rush to claim full citizenship — and a rush to the altar — as many mistakenly think that a quick marriage will improve their chances of staying.

The central plank of the welfare reform laws is "workfare", withdrawing government benefits to encourage poor people to find a job. In Britain, both Conservatives and Labour have built workfare schemes into their election manifestos.

Critics of workfare argue that the economy is not growing quickly enough to absorb these people and that food stamp recipients are poorly equipped to do the jobs that are available.

In the US, food stamps are one of the main sources of government support for the poorest. Last November, 24 million people received stamps, costing \$28 billion (£17.5 billion) a year. The maximum any person can receive in one month is \$120. Under the new legislation, states can apply for a one-year exemption from the provisions: three quarters have done so on the ground that they do not have enough jobs to soak up the number of people who would be thrown off the rolls.

AN OPEN LETTER

April 1 1997

Dear Bill Cockburn,
Alan Giles,
Richard Joseph,
David Mackay,
Joe Sinyor,

If you don't want Hilton Kask in your boardrooms

PRESS SEND

Scouts killed by rock fall

Marcus Hill, 25, a Scout leader, survived a rock fall that killed two childhood friends sitting an arm's length away.

The victims did not even have time to cry out as they were crushed by the collapse of an overhanging sandstone ledge which was apparently weakened by the heat of their campfire at Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire. Page 3

Hundreds drink to the end of the line for BR

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of rail enthusiasts converged on stations in Edinburgh and Glasgow last night clutching souvenir tickets and glasses of free champagne to celebrate the final journeys by public sector trains.

ScotRail, the last of the franchise rail networks to be sold by the Government, was formally handed over at midnight to National Express, the bus company which won the privatisation tender.

Two special ScotRail Class 158 expresses were laid on free for the enthusiasts. One ran from Edinburgh Waverley to Glasgow Queen Street, and the other made the journey in the opposite direction.

Passengers received a ticket commemorating the last public sector journey and the first private return. They were also given a commemorative miniature of whisky and free champagne on board. Jazz bands and pipe bands greeted

their departure and return. In fact, neither of the celebratory expresses could claim to be British Rail's last train. The last to leave was the Edinburgh to London sleeper, which departed from Waverley shortly before midnight. The last to arrive today will be a sleeper to Fort William.

ScotRail staff at Waverley were joined by John Bowden, 64, the only current rail employee who started working



John Bowden: veteran

before nationalisation. He joined the old London and North Eastern Railway as a 14-year-old in June 1947 and will retire from manning the ticket office at Blairhill station in Lanarkshire next January.

Alan Dignon, a ScotRail spokesman, emphasised that the service would continue to operate as normal under National Express, which has promised to improve comfort and frequency of service.

However, the new service may be hit by one-day strikes this month as employees fear that up to a fifth of the 3,900 rail employees may be made redundant under the new management.

National Express was awarded the seven-year franchise after asking for £35 million a year less in subsidy from local authorities than at present. The company recently reported a 45 per cent surge in profits to £60.1 million. There have been job cuts at other of its rail franchises.

Leading article, page 19

Easter holiday was sunniest since war

BY ROBIN YOUNG

BRITAIN has just enjoyed its warmest Easter since 1989. In many areas it was the sunniest since the Second World War — a climax to the third warmest March since temperature records began in 1659.

A Meteorological Office spokesman said yesterday that March 1997 was bettered only by 1957, the warmest March on record, and 1938. The average countrywide daytime temperature was 12.5C (54.5F), which is 3.5C (6.3F) above the long-term average.

Yesterday's temperatures were the warmest of the Bank Holiday weekend, typically rising to 16C or 17C (61F-63F), although breezes meant temperatures on the coasts were held down to about 12C (54F).

The result was that many more people went out on day trips to the coast or countryside yesterday, compounding traffic jams when the haul homeward got under way as sundown approached.

An AA Roadwatch spokesman said: "Easter holiday Monday on the roads is usual-

ly about the big return home after the break, but today there have been a lot of people still going out."

The RAC said the South Wales holiday resort of Porthcawl was "closed" during the afternoon because of the pressure of traffic.

For many tourist destinations it meant a bumper start to the 1997 season. Traffic jams five miles long greeted daytrippers who headed into Brighton.

AA Roadwatch said that some of the busiest roads were around Whipsnade zoo park, Bedfordshire, where a baby white rhinoceros was an attraction.

The warmth and the forecast that there would be no appreciable rain except possibly in the far north of Scotland for at least another week, has rekindled concern about water supplies. Already water companies are circulating customers with leaflets emphasising the need to conserve water.

Forecast, page 22

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Promises, promises: but will manifestos fit the bill?

We are going to be deluged with promises from the parties this week in their manifestos. The message will be "vote for us and we will do all these things to improve your lives". But governments have too often made a mess of translating such promises into workable policies.

A pre-emptive antidote is provided by two complementary pamphlets from each side of the party spectrum: *Think Ministers*... *Reinvigorating*

government in the UK by Professor Philip Norton of Hull University, published by the Centre for Policy Studies, and *Ready, Steady, Go! New Labour and Whitehall*. The latter, published by the Fabian Society, is based on a series of seminars between former senior civil servants and frontbenchers.

The Fabian pamphlet is a "how-to" guide for aspiring ministers and special advisers, full of sensible advice on the need for clear priorities

and the dangers of being sidetracked into short-term crises and media management. It discusses, for example, how Downing Street can be strengthened, through a reformed policy unit in the Cabinet Office, to undertake longer-term work.

This fits in with what Peter Hennessy, one of the co-authors of the Fabian paper, has envisaged as Tony Blair's "command partnership with big policies driven from the centre". That is how Mr Blair

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

has run Labour in opposition. But, as Professor Hennessy recognises, British government is also collective. I am not sure that Mr Blair's advisers yet realise how, in practice, it will be impossible for him, or for that matter Gordon Brown, to have control over every policy announcement, as they now do.

Professor Norton suggests improving the quality of legislation by expanding the scope for consultation and non-adversarial consideration by Commons committees. At present, there is a desperate rush to get Bills through within the annual parliamentary session. This cut-off could be abolished and Government and backbench Bills

could be carried over. More radically, but also rightly, Professor Norton adds his voice to the growing call for a reduction in the number of ministers, government departments and MPs.

This is, alas, unlikely to appeal to an incoming party long frustrated in opposition. Labour is pledged, in the report of its joint consultative committee with the Liberal Democrats on constitutional matters, to "modernising" the Commons. But new adminis-

trations are usually more concerned with the levers of power in Whitehall than strengthening Parliament's role in scrutinising the actions of impatient ministers. This week's manifesto promises would sound a lot more convincing if we could be sure they would be considered fully before they were implemented. Good government matters as much as active government.

PETER RIDDELL

We won't surrender to bullying, defiant Blunkett tells NUT

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

DAVID BLUNKETT silenced militant teachers yesterday with a warning that a Labour government would not be deterred from reforms by bullying or threats.

In a combative speech to the National Union of Teachers, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary confronted activists who had made a series of calls for industrial action. He won a standing ovation from the majority of delegates, although many leftwingers refused to applaud when he had delivered his message.

Before launching Labour's plans to improve numeracy, Mr Blunkett made a strong attack on strikes in schools: "I do not think that withdrawing your labour and leaving child-

ren without a teacher actually assists in raising standards or the esteem of the teaching profession."

Industrial action could only be justified as a last resort in disputes about working conditions. "There is no place whatever for strike action on government policy or the inspection system or the rigour of testing."

Mr Blunkett had to take refuge from angry demonstrators when he attended the NUT conference two years ago. Yesterday he said: "We will not tolerate division or bullying or threats, not simply from those who attend union conferences, but from anyone who has a vested interest in any part of our country... they will not stand in the

way of me and my colleagues radically changing the delivery of the education system."

Mr Blunkett reminded the conference of his background as a teacher in the South Yorkshire coalfields whose children attended an inner-city comprehensive with poor examination results. He said there would also be an immediate start to tackling an estimated £3 billion backlog in school repairs.

Doug McAvo, the NUT's general secretary, said: "This union doesn't seek conflict or confrontation: it seeks partnership with a government that shares its ideals and its philosophy."

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said that the NUT delegates represented the "real voice" of Labour. "I'm sure what we would see if Labour were elected is that Labour would have to reap what they have sown over the years as far as education is concerned."

Children would be banned from using calculators until at least the age of eight under Labour's ten-year plan to raise numeracy standards. The aim is for three-quarters of 11-year-olds to reach the standard expected of their age by 2002, and 90 per cent by 2007. Only 55 per cent of those leaving primary school reached this mark last summer.

Labour would insist on whole-class teaching, rather



Mr Blair speaking to Bank Holiday crowds near Maidstone, Kent, yesterday when he and John Prescott unveiled Labour's election slogan

Teaching union says rival is 'a disgrace to the profession'

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

The NUT's leadership was yesterday branded a "disgrace to the profession" by the country's second-largest teachers' union. At his union's conference in Bournemouth, Nigel de Gruchy, leader of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said Christine Blower, the NUT president, sent a dangerous

message to parents by withdrawing her 11-year-old from national tests in protest against the test scheme.

Ms Blower, who also plans to withdraw her six-year-old daughter from the tests, said she had not taken her stand as a professional, but as a parent. "There is ample evidence to show that I am far from a disgrace to my profession," she said.

than the progressive methods it blames for present failings. There would be changes in teacher training and a programme of professional development for serving teachers. Mr Blunkett also announced a numeracy taskforce, to report in one year.

Libby Purves, page 18

Blair pledges to keep personality politics out of Labour campaign

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

POSTERS GIVEN HOLIDAY DEBUT

A garden party at a country-house hotel was the setting for Tony Blair to launch Labour's election posters yesterday. More than 400 local party members and their families joined the Labour leader on the lawns of the Chilton Park Hotel near Maidstone, in Kent. As the party faithful milled about, drinking tea or sitting in a marquee, there was a jazz band to listen to and stalls at which to browse. The Easter Bunny sent children scurrying off in search of chocolate eggs. Girls in red T-shirts bearing the new slogan - "Britain deserves better" - rushed around drenching balloons while candidates sweated

in their suits and chatted to party workers. When Mr Blair and his deputy appeared, the party members cheered and tried to clap while holding their caps of tea and sausage rolls. John Prescott, blinking in the bright sunlight, told the crowd: "The daffodils, the buds, the sun - it's time for change and a time for a new Prime Minister." At his word, an army of children unveiled the new posters on vans parked around the lawns.

IN answer to John Major's soapbox, Mr Blair is to make campaign speeches from a platform that slides out of his touring election "battle bus", which enters the fray next week.

member of the campaign team, said that if Mr Blair was running a positive campaign why would he not engage in an open debate with the Mr Major on television.

Mr Blair reinforced David Blunkett's headline message to militant teachers, saying he was prepared to defy the unions. Asked on the new Channel 5 television station if he would stand up to union pressure, Mr Blair said: "I'll simply say no."

The Labour leader also backed Chris Woodhead, head of the education watchdog Ofsted, which is under attack from the NUT. "I think it's important... the body that's going to look after standards in our schools has got to be tough and it's got to be strong and it's got to be well led. And I think it is at the moment."

But Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said Labour was impotent in the face of union behaviour. Confirming Tory plans to act against public-sector strikes in its manifesto, he said the Tories would "guarantee the public protection from such calamitous industrial action."

Spinning for party, page 14
Leading article, page 19

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TONY BLAIR stole a march on his political opponents yesterday by venturing into the Bank Holiday sunshine to launch his party's poster campaign and unveil Labour's election slogan, "Britain Deserves Better".

With the campaign proper not formally under way until this morning, the Labour leader promised to "rise above the sleaze" and said that Labour candidates would not be allowed to engage in personality politics.

Mr Blair's message on sleaze will be echoed by John Major and Paddy Ashdown when they hold their press conferences today.

The Labour leader will be accompanied at his press conference by Alan Howard, the MP who defected from the Conservatives during the last Parliament and has since been selected to fight Newport East for Labour. Labour sources said his presence was intended to symbolise why New Labour was right for the country and the Conservatives had failed it.

While most politicians took a break, Mr Blair and his

deputy, John Prescott, were in the Kent countryside with their new posters. He claimed that between now and polling day each would wear a positive message rather than run down the Tories. "The conventional wisdom is that only negative advertising works in elections, that you

can only win by scaring the voters about your opponents. We aim to prove that this is not the case. I have issued instructions that all our posters between now and May 1 - election day - will be positive."

His claims were ridiculed by the Tories. Alan Duncan, a

Major letter spells out tough line on Tory MPs found to be guilty

The Times will publish in full the manifestos of the three main political parties over the next week

IN A letter to all Conservative constituency party chairmen last night, John Major said that he would act "quickly and decisively" against any Tory MP who was found guilty of wrongdoing in the cash-for-questions affair.

The following is an extract from the Prime Minister's letter: "This country is in better economic shape than for generations. However, speculation on other matters is drowning this out and preventing issues from being debated that affect the future of our country."

I have never condoned wrong-doing and I abhor lapses of behaviour in public life. Governing the country is a serious business and the public are right to expect the highest standards and conduct that is honourable.

That is why I set up the Nolan Committee to examine the workings of Parliament and enabled the House to appoint a Parliamentary Commissioner to help MPs regulate their activities.

In this country we do not assume people have behaved

improperly until the accusations have been examined and proven to be true.

When Sir Gordon Downey began to investigate a number of complex allegations, I had hoped his report would be completed before the General Election. I am disappointed that it was not. We do not know the conditions Sir Gordon will put to the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges or the judgments the Committee will reach. We do know the accuracy of the allegations against some Members have been - and continue to be - vigorously contested.

I understand Sir Gordon's report is likely to be lengthy as the evidence amounts to thousands of pages and many submissions. When it is received it must be considered. Those involved may wish - or be required by the Select Committee - to give further evidence.

That evidence may influ-

ence the Committee's report - as indeed the reports of other inquiries have been influenced after representations by those criticised in them. The whole process will take some time.

There have been suggestions I should publish the preliminary report. I can't. I don't have it. It isn't mine to publish. It may change. And, in any event, it is a matter for the Select Committee who, to the best of my knowledge, have not yet seen the report, let alone considered it.

It has been suggested that I disband Constituency Associations and impose new candidates. But under our Conservative Party constitution, the selection of a candidate is the responsibility of the Association - the decision to contest the seat is for the candidate.

The Select Committee's final report may exonerate members from all, or the most serious criticisms. If so, well and good. However, if the

select committee's final report is unfavourable, the Conservative Party will put the interest of Parliament and its reputation above all other matters.

All these many issues, may be unresolved now but they won't remain unresolved for long. The Select Committee's report will be published and, if it criticises Conservative MPs, I for one will wish Parliament to act quickly and decisively to uphold its reputation.

The House of Commons has draconian powers. The Conservative Party will support their use if criticism is severe enough to merit it. It can, of course, also withdraw the Whip if that seems appropriate.

Unsubstantiated allegations, still under consideration - against a handful of individuals - should not cheat the electorate of the debate about which party is best suited to form the Government for the next five years. There are big issues to be debated. Let us get on with the real General Election. The future of the country is at stake and the electorate have a right to hear the arguments."

0500 758 000

Lifelong friends had no chance as rock overhang collapsed on them at campsite

Survivor tells how scout leaders were crushed to death

BY DANIEL MCGRODY

A SCOUT leader told last night how he survived a rock fall that killed two friends just an arm's length away. The victims did not even have time to cry out as they were crushed by the collapse of an overhanging sandstone ledge, possibly weakened by the heat from their campfire.

Marcus Hill, 25, survived because he was sitting with his back right against the rock face. He was pinned there as the 10 tonnes of rock crashed down on his friends. He said: "They didn't see it coming and didn't have a chance to do anything."

Mr Hill pulled at boulders piled high to try to reach his friends, Stuart Perkins, 20, and David Weaver, 21, who were childhood friends whom he first met after joining the same scout troop as schoolboys. A new generation of a dozen youngsters from the Kidderminster 11th Scout Group had been playing at the scene of the rock fall only hours earlier, at their regular annual campsite near Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire.

The boys, aged 12 to 15, had left to go to their tents in an adjoining field. Mr Hill went to share a late-night beer with his friends. None of them had regarded the 15ft overhang as dangerous, he said.

Still visibly distressed, and wearing his muddled and torn Scout uniform, Mr Hill recalled how his companions had already taken the most comfortable places near the fire, so he sat opposite them with his back against the rock face.

"We were talking about television, cars and life in general," he said. "It was very sudden. The rocks just fell in. We didn't see it or hear it coming at all. There was no warning. There was no way out whatsoever."

After crawling over the rocks and calling out for his friends, he ran half a mile to a telephone box. With police, he



The victims: David Weaver, above, and Stuart Perkins



night. The boys were not told of the deaths until morning. Many were in tears as they returned to the farm with their parents to collect their belongings. Mr Hill's girlfriend, Sandra Oliver, was among the other leaders.

The troop was on its first outing of the year. Mr Hill, a technician with Malvern Hills District Council, said: "The Scouts had been very close to where the rocks came down. On a weekend camp we would always have a camp fire on the last night. We played a few games, told a few ghost stories and a few jokes. It was a traditional scouts evening."

Scout leaders stressed that none of the team had behaved carelessly. There were rings of stones at the spot so that Scout groups could build their camp fires safely and all three had special training and extensive experience of camping. Gareth Roberts, Hereford and Worcester scouting field commissioner, said: "This particular group had camped there for many years. There was no indication that this site was unsafe."

"This is a good Scout group with a good scouting team and they need to be praised for that. I would have no hesitation in letting them go out with a Scout group anywhere in the country."

John Fogg of the Scouting Association said: "One theory is that the fire may have dried out the water in the sandstone. There was a frost that night, but in truth we will probably never know for sure what went wrong. These lads were had come through the ranks as Venture Scouts and were among our brightest and most conscientious leaders."

Martin Packler, Group Scout Leader, said: "The two young lads who died were dedicated Scouts. They had come up from the cubs and they lived and breathed scouting. They just loved it."

The Scout group had arrived on Friday. Members have been staying at Cider Hill farm for over a decade, always building their camp fires under the ledge to avoid damaging the farmer's field.

Mr Weaver was a second-year marketing student at Southampton University and a skilled mountaineer. His mother, Margaret, had been a cub scout leader. His brother Paul said: "These two had grown up together through the Scouts."

"David had often taken groups out on camp before and this is traditionally the first outing of the year. I've been to that spot myself and it's a great little place. There are rings of stones by the ridge for camp fires and that is where leaders always build their fire. It was just the wrong night and they were in the wrong place."

Mr Weaver's parents, Keith and Margaret, went to a communion service yesterday. They said: "We are just devastated."

Mr Perkins worked at a



The survivor, Marcus Hill, after yesterday's tragedy. Below, the scene of the collapse where he tried to dig his friends out from under the rocks. He said: "They didn't see it coming and didn't have a chance to do anything"



bathroom fitting firm, and lived only 100 yards from the troop's scout hut with his parents. His father, Michael, said: "This has not sunk in yet. Stuart had been on camps before so he was very experienced. He had been to that site before. He started off a cub and followed it right through. It was the main interest in his life apart from tinkering with his car."

□ A boy aged eight walking on Back Beach at Lyme Regis, Dorset, suffered head and back injuries when a 200lb rock fell from a cliff. James Manock was airlifted to hospital by helicopter.

□ A lost and inexperienced climber walked to safety off the hillside after a night stranded on Beinn Breac, in the Cairngorms. Hazel Gray, 47, from Edinburgh, ignored flares from a rescue team because she didn't know what they were.

Teenager sees two friends killed by train

BY STEWART TENDLER

TWO boys were killed by a passenger train at the weekend. The accident was seen by a friend who went for help to houses near by and led police officers to the scene.

The dead boys, aged 13 and 15, were hit on Sunday by a train travelling at 70 mph. Police were already on their way to Osmondthorpe, Leeds, after reports that children were throwing stones at cars from a bridge over the main Leeds to Selby road.

The train, travelling from Middlesbrough towards Leeds, came round a long bend on an embankment and the driver caught the youths in his lights but could not stop.

The 15-year-old died instantly. The second boy had severe head injuries and died at St James's Hospital in Leeds. Their friend was yesterday at home with his family, still too shaken to talk to police.

Inspector Daniel Snee, of the British Transport Police, said the train driver, who was also in shock, would have had only a couple of seconds to see the boys and had no chance of avoiding them. The lines in both directions were closed for several hours.

Mary Cheetham, who lives a few yards from the line, was alerted to the tragedy by the boy who escaped. She said: "There was a knock at the door and this young lad was there dressed in jeans, jumper and woolly hat."

"He was very upset and close to tears. All he said was his friends had been hit by a train. We called for an ambulance and he went outside to wait for the police."

Residents said children regularly crossed the line in their blazers and bags as a short cut. The track is fenced but police said that it was often breached by children climbing a five-bar gate.

A spokeswoman for Rail-track said: "Sadly, these boys seem to have been trespassing. It tends to happen predominantly in urban areas like this. We have tried to address the issues, but the sad fact is however good the fencing is we put up, people will get on the line."

Divers airlifted to hospital with bends

THREE amateur divers were recovering from the bends at a special medical unit in Belgium last night after a diving accident in the Channel (Derek Gregorian writes).

The trio, all members of a diving club in Folkestone, Kent, were surfacing from a dive on a deep wreck near the Varne Light vessel, six miles off Dover, when one of the men lost his face mask and demand valve. He was forced to make a rapid ascent, losing several minutes of decompression time, and when he reached the surface was unconscious. His two companions spotted him going up and also surfaced too quickly.

A spokesman for the Dover

coastguard, which co-ordinated the rescue, said: "One was unconscious when brought to the surface. The other two were conscious but needed specialist treatment."

They were suffering from compressed-air sickness, in which air or gases breathed under pressure are dissolved in the bloodstream and turn into bubbles of nitrogen.

The divers, whose names were not immediately released, would normally have been taken to a decompression chamber at Portsmouth, but fog forced the RAF Sea King helicopter which airlifted them from the diving vessel to fly to a military hospital in the Belgian port of Ostend.

Mr Weaver was a second-year marketing student at Southampton University and a skilled mountaineer. His mother, Margaret, had been a cub scout leader. His brother Paul said: "These two had grown up together through the Scouts."

"David had often taken groups out on camp before and this is traditionally the first outing of the year. I've been to that spot myself and it's a great little place. There are rings of stones by the ridge for camp fires and that is where leaders always build their fire. It was just the wrong night and they were in the wrong place."

Mr Weaver's parents, Keith and Margaret, went to a communion service yesterday. They said: "We are just devastated."

Mr Perkins worked at a

Belgian stalks streets of Nottingham in hunt for father of wartime baby

BY ROBIN YOUNG

FRANK SHAW of Nottingham, ex-serviceman with a past, he warned. Gaby from Brussels is stalking the streets of your home town looking for you and she has brought along the daughter she says you fathered 51 years ago.

Gaby, 77, a married Brusselsite, refuses to disclose her surname because, she says, her Belgian husband has no idea about the quest on which she and her daughter, Josette, 51, are engaged. Their mission is to find Gaby's former lover, Frank Shaw, a man she last saw in the final days of the war, 52 years ago.

Gaby, speaking from the hotel in Nottingham where she has set up her search headquarters, explained yesterday that she had set out on the hunt because her daughter was intent on meeting her unknown father.

What they know of Mr Shaw is quickly summarised. Gaby was 24 when she met and fell in love with him in 1945 in Brussels, when he was, she thinks, serving as a captain in a regiment which could have been the Sherwood Foresters, stationed in Ixelles, a



Desperately seeking Frank: Gaby, as she was in wartime Brussels and in Nottingham yesterday



suburb of Brussels. Speaking through Bruno Vauthier, her interpreter, Gaby said yesterday: "I want to find Frank for the sake of my daughter who is desperate to meet her father, but I must be discreet."

Gaby said Mr Shaw had said he wanted to marry her, but balked when her family told him that Belgian tradi-

tion demanded that he would have to remain in Belgium with his bride and live with his mother-in-law. He refused and returned to England. Gaby's mother died only four months later, but by then the couple had severed their connections. A year later and with a year-old baby to look after, Gaby found she was unable to get by alone

and married a Belgian, with whom she still lives in Brussels. M. Vauthier added: "Gaby did try to contact Frank some years ago through an advertisement. She fears that he may have tried to find her but discovered she had a husband and decided not to pursue it."

"Her sincere hope is that her visit will end in a reunion with the love she lost over 50 years ago."

Gaby said from her Nottingham hotel room: "I am just going to walk around the streets hopefully until I meet Frank. After all this time I am very nervous about it."

She said she had contacted the British Army but had not received much help because she could not be sure of Mr Shaw's old regiment. She also said she had telephoned every F. Shaw she could find listed in the telephone directory without result, and that her advertisement in local newspapers had drawn a blank.

She has now enlisted the aid of the assistance of the press, which can often bring quick results in such cases. So come in, Frank Shaw. Let us at least hope, for John Major's sake, that you are not a local Conservative Party chairman.

Same price applies on April 2nd.

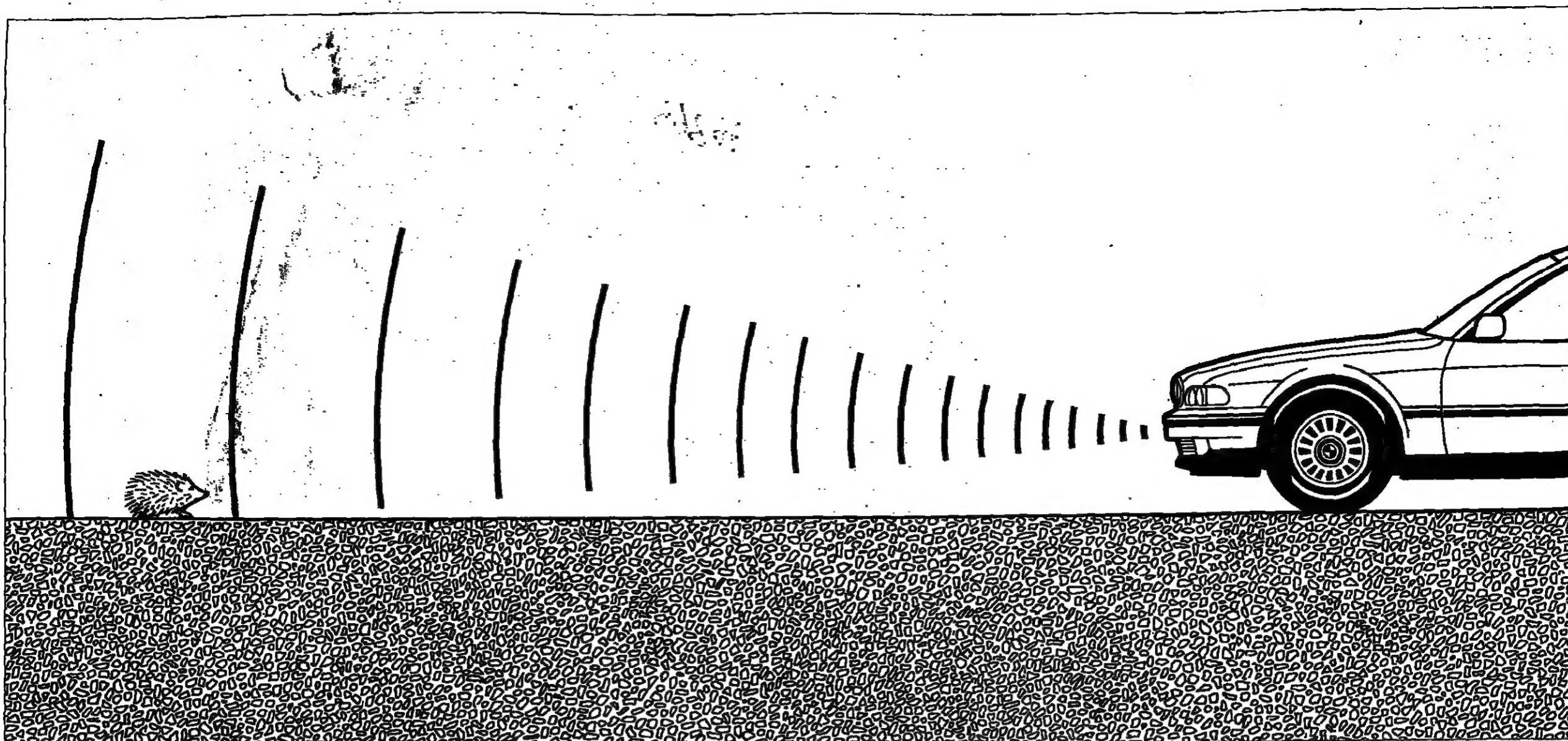
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Compulsory purchase saves former abbey which endured Henry VIII, tidal erosion – and pig farming

£1 sale of house that survived history's treacherous sands

By Marcus Binney, Architecture Correspondent

ONE of the finest Elizabethan houses in Wales was sold for £1 at the weekend. Rather larger is the £250,000 tag for moving a nearby pig-breeding unit which had rendered the house unsaleable.

Sker House in south Glamorgan stands alone among the sand dunes, a field away from the sea. But beneath is a foundation of solid rock which has enabled the house, which is of monastic origin, to survive while the nearby town of Kenfig was buried long ago beneath the sand.

At the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the abbey was sold to the Turbeville family, who added a great hall with a frieze of bird-headed men firing arrows at Welsh dragons. The Turbevilles were Roman Catholics, and in the 16th and early 17th centuries, several were fined and imprisoned

The partial recovery in the property market is leading to a rise in divorce applications, solicitors and estate agents say. Couples who agreed to divorce several years ago, but became trapped in their homes because of negative equity, are now able to proceed. Mortgage lenders also report a rise in the number of title deeds transferred from two names to one. Agents' survey, page 41

for recusancy. One confessed to involvement in Tins Oates's Popish Plot of 1678, and a Jesuit priest was found hiding in the house.

The Turbevilles were forced to sell and the new owners left tenant farmers to run the place. In 1766, John Curre

simply bequeathed the vast impractical pile to his manservant.

In 1977, Sker, by now a blackened wreck, was declared unsafe, and tenant farmers moved to a house nearby. Alas for Sker, a pig-breeding unit was built less than 100 yards away.

For the past seven years, the Buildings at Risk Trust, aided by Ogwr council, and later by Bridgend council, has battled to save Sker. Meanwhile, the owner hived off the house with just 3 ft of land around it into a £100 property company to avoid paying for repairs.

This weekend, the council resolved to activate a compulsory purchase order, which had been due to expire in 24 hours, enabling the Buildings at Risk Trust to acquire the freehold of the house and six acres. The lottery fund has



Sker House, near Bridgend, which stands among sand dunes and belonged to the Turbeville family after the Dissolution of the Monasteries

offered £413,000 towards repairs, in addition to £250,000 promised by Cadw (the Welsh equivalent of English Heritage) for removal and reconstruction of the farm buildings. Ian Benrose, the trust's sec-

retary, said: "This is the most significant use of the compulsory purchase procedure for a historic building in Wales." Mike Davies, the architect who will supervise the repairs, added: "We will give the house

a stone tile roof as it would have had in the 16th century. We will also lime-wash the rubble stone walls to protect them from the weather. We have found traces of blues, reds, whites and yellows and

can take our pick from these colours. In the great hall on the first floor we have found 18th century graffiti which will be preserved."

Tom Lloyd, the trust chairman, added: "The best use would be for Sker to become a private house but it will have to be open at least 28 days a year. An alternative might be a restaurant; two of the finest golf links in Wales are near by."



Deborah Thomas: body found by firefighters

Poet found battered to death after house blaze

By A Staff Reporter

AN AMATEUR poet was found beaten to death in the attic bedroom she used for readings. The body of Deborah Thomas, 37, was discovered after firefighters were called to a blaze at her home in Brighton early on Sunday.

Miss Thomas had earlier left a nightclub with a pony-tailed man in his 20s. Her children, Douglas, 10, and Matilda, 5, had been staying with their father.

Friends mourned the death of the poet known as "Debo". Polly Marshall, of the spoken word club Do Tongues, said: "She had some wonderful material and performed regularly. She was well known in poetry circles locally."

Police were yesterday awaiting the results of a post-mortem examination. Detective Inspector Malcolm Bacon said it had been a brutal attack on a popular woman. "I have not heard of anybody with a bad word to say about her. She seems to have been a caring and emotional person."

Fake gun gives bus bandit a real fright

By Russell Jenkins

A LATTER-DAY highwayman met his match when he tried to hold up a bus on a council estate notorious for late-night violence. When he demanded the takings, the driver pulled out a revolver and fired three deafening shots. The robber staggered backwards, hit his head and knocked himself out.

The pistol was a replica and the 22 rounds were blanks but the 17-year-old robber did not know that. Bus driver Robert Amos, 44, jumped out from behind the wheel and called the emergency services. The youth was taken from the Racecourse estate, in Sale, near Manchester, to hospital for treatment to cuts and bruises and leisurely contemplation of another career.

Police have questioned Mr Amos and he has been bailed to appear at a police station at a later date. Opinion on the estate, where shopkeeper Ian Marshall, 48, was murdered last month by a raider, is divided over Mr Amos's exploit late on Saturday.

Mike Gardner, chairman of the Sale West Tenants' Association, said: "I cannot believe this bus driver was armed. It was an incredibly stupid thing to do." Freda Boyle, 64, a resident, said Mr Amos may have been "out of order" but he did what many of the "young devils" who hang about the estate at night deserve.

Police have arrested one man and are seeking four more after a German family were attacked in Nottingham yesterday. The men, white and aged 25-30, attacked the family's car, which had German plates, at traffic lights.

Confused whale dies on mudflats

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

SIGHTSEERS wept yesterday as "Moby" the last whale died on mudflats after more than two weeks trapped in the shallow waters of the Forth. The 40ft male had resisted all attempts to make it realise that it was swimming in the wrong direction.

The sperm whale emerged yesterday morning at Airth, more than ten miles inland, after days without a sighting. Exhausted and starving, almost its entire bulk lay exposed on the mud by ebbing tide by 10am. Only the occasional sweep of the tail indicated it was still alive.

Local children raced to the scene on their bikes as word spread through the village. By 11.30, the whale was in obvious distress and gasping for breath. It began opening and shutting its mouth and made a final effort to heave itself back into the water.

Spectators watched from just feet away as the blow whale sank below mud and the animal's internal organs were crushed by its bulk. It gave a groan and stopped moving at about noon.

One little girl tugged at her father's sleeve and said: "Daddy, do something, push

him out." Margaret Johnson, who has two children, Paul, 8, and John, 11, said: "We saw it from the bedroom window this morning. The kids are really upset."

Alex Kilgour, promotions manager at Deep Sea World, the North Queensferry marine centre which co-ordinated rescue attempts, said: "He died quickly, which is a relief as we had been told it could take up to 12 hours. Everyone is deeply upset. He touched the hearts of many people. We have had people phoning us in tears all day."

"He was meant to go down the west coast and instead he went down the east. Everything was done that could be done. We got him out to the open sea. He was confused and kept trying to head west, further up the river. We would like an international effort to prevent this happening again. We need a central base for equipment and experts from around the world working together. We will learn from Moby's death."

The Coastguard will invite companies to tender for the whale's disposal. It is likely to be cut up and buried elsewhere.

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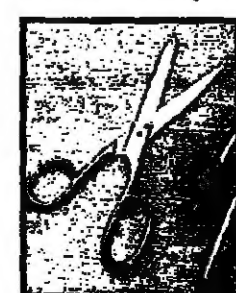
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Times 3475

Commissioners' decision to sell property and buy shares restores assets to record level of £3 billion

Church recovers fortune lost in 80s market crash



Colman: changed investment strategy

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England's assets have soared to a record £3 billion after the Church Commissioners recovered all the losses made from property speculation in the 1980s.

The Church's assets are now at a record high level after a year in which they have outperformed expectations. Michael Alison, the Second Church Estates Commissioner, who, as MP for Selby, has been the vital link between Church and State in Parliament and who is stepping down at the election, said the recovery had been achieved by selling assets such as the MetroCentre in Newcastle, and re-investing in stocks and shares. The

Church's high concentration in property investments in the 1980s made it vulnerable to the property crash, and it lost £800 million.

The 1996 results, to be released at the end of next month, show the assets to be nearly £300 million higher than the 1995 figure of £2.7 billion, while income has remained steady at about £145 million. Even at the peak of the property market in 1989, just before the disastrous crash in asset values brought on by a financial crisis, the Church's assets stood at £2.9 billion, less than they are today.

The total return on assets is well ahead of independent benchmarks used in the financial markets. In 1996 a 17 per cent return was achieved on assets, compared with the benchmark figure of 11 per cent.

The Stock Exchange portfolio performance was in the top 1 per cent of pension funds in the WM All Funds Index, at 17.4 per cent. The property return of 18 per cent was also better than the benchmark.

Mr Alison gave warning that there could be no easing up on donations from congregations because the Church was committed to paying pensions to retired clergy.

The Church is anxious to make parishes and dioceses as self-supporting as possible, paying as much towards clergy pensions and stipends as they can afford, so that the commissioners' income can be used for mission and aid to the most needy and in the poorest parishes.

Mr Alison, who has held his post for ten years, said: "Looking at the

background to what happened to our investments, we started with one hand tied behind our back. We inherited a lot of agricultural land, nearly all farm tenancies with controlled rents and almost unsaleable because of security of tenure.

"It is not surprising that attempts were made to find other forms of property holdings like commercial or business property where there was no rent control." This left the Church over-exposed to the crash in the property market. But Mr Alison said: "We did not have huge holdings in the equity market at that time. So when the equity market collapsed in 1987 the Church Commissioners were singularly unaffected. But no one said a word."

The recovery has been made

under the helmship of Sir Michael Colman, First Church Estates Commissioner, who engineered the change in investment strategy after his appointment in 1993.

Mr Alison, who last year was asked 53 questions in Parliament, said that much of the increased interest in church affairs related to finances, clergy pensions and to proposed reforms in management drawn up by a commission set up under the Bishop of Durham and currently going through the General Synod.

Next year, Parliament will be asked to approve a synodical measure to bring the reforms into being. The number of commissioners will be cut and a large proportion of the income earned from the commis-

sioners' assets handed over to a new Archbishops' Council, a cabinet-style central body.

Parliament recently approved a measure allowing the Church to set up its own pension fund, at a time when retired clergy are outnumbering serving clergy for the first time in the church's history.

Mr Alison, who attends Holy Trinity, Brompton, in Knightsbridge, said: "The Church Commission has shown itself to be extraordinarily adaptable in its capacity to look into the future. I am very sorry to be leaving when the ship is sailing full tilt into uncharted waters."

The current favourite to replace Mr Alison as Second Church Estates Commissioner is Stuart Randall, Labour MP for Hull West.

Priest among three arrested in jet plant

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A PRIEST and three parishioners were arrested with four refugees from East Timor yesterday during a protest against the sale of aircraft to Indonesia.

They formed a human step-ladder to climb the perimeter fence of the British Aerospace factory at Warton, Lancashire, at 5.30am. Father Arthur Fitzgerald, of St Michael's Church, Liverpool, then held an Easter liturgy inside the site, which produces Hawk jets for export to Indonesia.

The protesters read from the Bible, scattered poppy seeds and unfurled banners, then gave each BAE security worker an Easter egg. The other protesters were Ermengildo Lopes, Moises da Costa, Antonio Vieira and Acacio Marques from East Timor, and Lizzie Jones, James Cookson and Julie Curral.

The protest began a day of peaceful action, described as a "prayer blockade", at the aircraft plant. At Liverpool Crown Court last year four women were acquitted by a jury of causing criminal damage to a Hawk jet on the site.

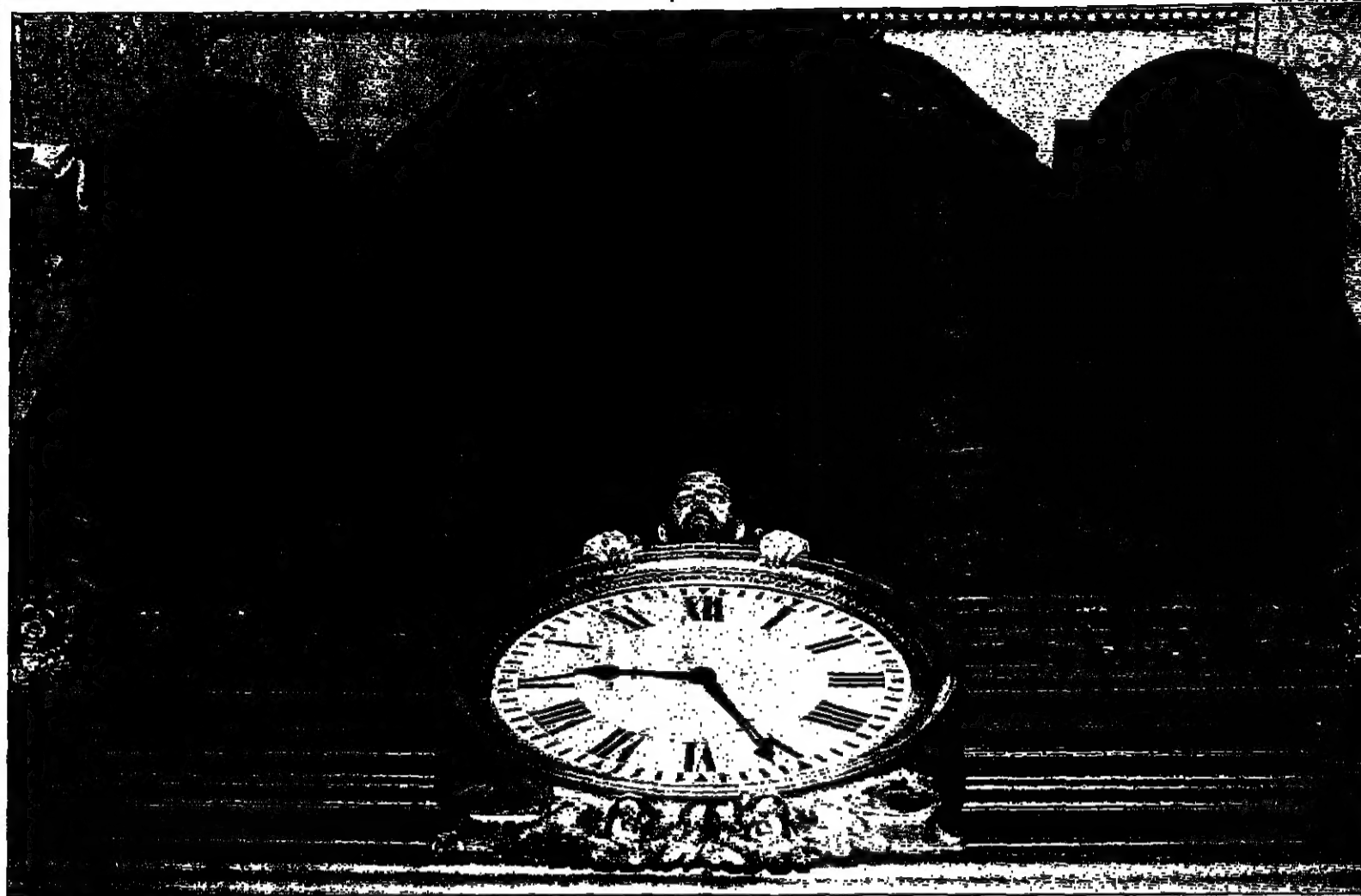
The women argued that they had used reasonable force to try to prevent a crime — genocide in East Timor.

Since then peace campaigners have staged regular vigils outside the plant to highlight the plight of East Timor, where, it is claimed, 200,000 have died as a result of occupation by Indonesia.

Father Fitzgerald said: "We are here celebrating Easter alongside four men who have survived the genocide in East Timor. BAE Hawk jets are being used by the Indonesian regime to slaughter innocents in East Timor. This trade in death has to stop."

The eight were questioned at Lytham police station, near Blackpool, and were charged with trespass under the Civil Aviation Act.

Mr Lopes said: "I saw the Hawks in East Timor but I did not know they came from Britain. Now I live here and know they are made by British Aerospace. We call on Britain to stop supporting human rights abuses in East Timor and to stop selling Hawks to Indonesia."



The giant organ at the historic Christ Church in Spitalfields. Below, William Drake examines the workings ready for restoration

Musical treasure reveals its secrets are safe and sound

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A MUSICAL treasure has been found to be more complete than anyone realised. The 1735 church organ at Spitalfields, London, was once said to be the largest in England, but was feared to be unplayable after standing for years in a near-derelict state.

Now tests for restoration work have discovered that the action, mechanism and pipework are still the original work of Richard Bridge, who was the leading organ builder of his day and a favourite of Handel.

The organ is in Christ Church, the 1714 architectural masterpiece of Nicholas Hawksmoor. The church fell on hard times this century. It was closed for 30 years and stood in a near-derelict state surrounded by litter, its stonework blackening. The organ's restoration will take up to

three years and cost an estimated £750,000. Roland Jeffrey, campaign director for the Friends of Christ Church, said: "It is even more complete than we dared hope."

William Drake, the organ builder who will carry out the restoration, described it as "a remarkable find". Although organs by Bridge survive at Shoreditch and Clerkenwell, they have undergone many more alterations than the one at Spitalfields.

Mr Drake, of Buckfastleigh, Devon, has also been commissioned to restore the organ at Buckingham Palace and to build a new instrument for the medieval Crypt Chapel of St Stephen's in the Palace of Westminster. He said: "Until one dismantles an organ, one never knows what material it contains from an earlier period. In this case, we knew a certain amount existed from the 18th century. Very excitingly, it has the original wind system. This will all make it easier to reconstruct. It will be the best preserved organ of

this period in England." Most 18th-century organs underwent changes in the 19th century due to differences in musical taste. "They were looking for a larger sound, a more orchestral sound. The 18th century is a period from which a lot of this information has been lost."

The instrument, within a walnut case, cost £600 in 1735. A contemporary account said: "By the most competent judges, the tone is pronounced to be unexcelled, combining sweetness with great dignity, breadth and power."

Restoration funds are being sought from the lottery, English Heritage and private donors. Mr Jeffrey said that the organ would not be fully restored until work on the church was finished: "We don't want it to fill with dust and debris from building work." A Dutch musician, Gustav Leonhardt, has agreed to give the inaugural recital — if all goes to plan, in about five years.



Briton is jailed for killing his wife

A Briton living in Cyprus was jailed for 15 years yesterday for strangling his Cypriot wife and throwing her body out of the window of their second-floor apartment.

David Parris, 34, had pleaded not guilty to manslaughter, but the Assizes Court in Nicosia ruled that the factory worker beat and strangled his wife Avroustina in a fit of rage at their home in the city. Parris's father, John, said they would appeal against the conviction.

The couple had two children and Mrs Parris had two from a previous marriage. They are being looked after by her parents. Parris moved to Cyprus from London nearly five years ago when the couple married.

Kitchen tragedy

A boy found fatally wounded in his kitchen is believed to have accidentally severed an artery in his chest with a knife. The boy, aged 12, from Kettering, Northamptonshire, died later in hospital. Police said the boy would probably not be named until today. An inquest is to be held.

Oil hits coast

Heavy oil leaking from the 3,000-ton *Cita*, which ran aground in Porth Hellick Bay in the Isles of Scilly during gales last week, drifted ashore as a salvage tug continued pumping fuel oil from the German-owned cargo ship. Steve Watt, Scillies maritime officer, said the pollution was very slight.

Intolerant victim

The police officer leading Cleveland's Zero Tolerance anti-crime campaign put the policy into effect when he spotted two men trying to break into his car. Detective Chief Inspector Ray Mallon, who was visiting Hartlepool, gave chase and caught one man, aged 18, who has been charged with attempted theft.

HIV lessons

Health officials are to review their response to the case of an HIV-positive doctor. Gloucestershire Health Authority, criticised for refusing to name the doctor, Patrick Ngosa, and for keeping the issue secret for two weeks, is to study if there are "lessons that can be learnt". Dr Ngosa has left the country.

Cancer treatment

A possible treatment for a childhood cancer has been found by scientists studying a chemical normally used on people with severe acne. Researchers from the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, have identified a derivative of retinoic acid which is effective against the neuroblastoma tumour.

Conman at large

Cheshire police are hunting John Kemel, 49, of Warrington, who absconded from Ford Open Prison in West Sussex last year, after couples reported that he had promised to book foreign holidays and then disappeared with their cash. Police said: "This man is very plausible. He has distressed a lot of people."

Family law

A policeman was reprimanded for dealing with a case involving his daughter. PC Peter Ramsden, of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, should have passed it to other officers after finding that Anne, 20, was one of two women in a pub fight. The town's Labour MP, Barry Sheerman, called for an inquiry.

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Chickenpox, just a bad itch to most children, kills several adults a year

TERRI Yates, 26, of Herefordshire, has died from the chickenpox she caught in January while nursing her two-year-old son, Thomas, during his attack. Mrs Yates's death is a reminder that chickenpox can be a very much more severe disease in adults than it is in children. Patients of whatever age are also at risk of a severe attack if they are immunocompromised, either by other diseases or drugs.

Before the age of ten chickenpox is usually no more than a nuisance. Within two or three weeks of infection, a child usually complains of a headache and gets mild flu-like symptoms and a slight temperature. A couple of days later the patient develops a rash, centred on the chest but also occurring on the abdomen and the upper parts of the limbs. In mild cases the face, hands and feet may escape spots altogether.

Within hours vesicles — blisters like teardrops beneath the skin — appear. They soon lose their clear appearance, start to ooze and then to crust



Dr Thomas Stuttard

over. The spots itch severely and every effort should be made to prevent scratching, which can cause secondary infection. The disease is usually past its peak within a week but the patient remains infectious until the last spot has crusted over. The virus is transmitted by droplets, sprayed into the atmosphere by coughing. Shingles is caused by a reactivation of the chickenpox virus which has been hidden in the central nervous system for years.

Every year several people die from chickenpox, but although fatal cases are rare, with a high temperature and a splitting headache. The rash is more dense and the face is

often covered in spots. Spots also occur in the mouth, which can make swallowing difficult, and within the trachea, which can cause a persistent dry cough. The older the patient the more likely complications become. When someone is immunocompromised the death rate from chickenpox, unless precautions are taken, is alarmingly high. Chickenpox is also dangerous to unborn children if it is caught late in pregnancy. Mrs Yates died of pneumonia. Pneumonia following chickenpox is often a very sudden onset and responds badly to treatment.

Encephalitis affects one person in a thousand with chickenpox, and has a particularly unpleasant feature — it

often appears a fortnight after the patient thinks recovery is complete. Cerebral symptoms may be no worse than a headache and irritability but it can cause a wide variety of neurological damage, including cerebellar ataxia, a staggering gait and a complete loss of balance. Reye's syndrome encephalitis, accompanied by serious damage to the liver and other abdominal organs, is also an occasional complication of chickenpox. Aspirin makes it 30 times more likely and should not be given to anyone with chickenpox, whatever their age.

Where there is a very high risk of complications, prophylactic injections of the appropriate gamma-globulins should be given after contact with a case. In other cases, where the disease could be more severe than usual, acyclovir, an anti-viral drug, should be given at the very first hint of chickenpox, but in ordinary cases the only treatment needed is an antihistamine to control the irritation.



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Perseverance pays off for RAF 'swastika' squadron

By JOHN YOUNG

AN RAF squadron that played a crucial role in the defeat of the Japanese in the Second World War has achieved official recognition more than half a century after it was disbanded. The Garter King of Arms has approved a new badge for the squadron association that will be dedicated at St Clement Danes, the RAF church in the Strand, on April 22.

The ceremony will mark the successful outcome of a long campaign by veterans and friends of 273 Squadron, including David Clark, Labour's defence spokesman in the last parliament, to have its achievements properly recognised.

The squadron was formed in 1918 and then reformed in Ceylon in August, 1939. It fought throughout the long and arduous campaign to recapture Burma in support of the Allied ground troops. Lord Mountbatten said of the RAF's role in the campaign: "Never have the land forces in any campaign owed more to their associated air forces."

Most squadrons were formed or reformed in Britain, where their badges were



The original badge, left, was rejected because of the swastika-like symbol, absent in the accepted version

submitted for royal approval. Far from home, members of 273 Squadron designed their own badge and sent it to the War Ministry in London for authorisation, only to be told nearly two years later that it was unacceptable.

The reason was thought to be that the design incorporated an ancient Asian peace symbol, the fylfot, which had been copied from the wall of a Buddhist temple near the squadron airfield in Ceylon. Unfortunately, the fylfot bore

a close resemblance to the Nazi swastika, a resemblance which the RAF high command evidently found too close for comfort.

The squadron, which was too busy fighting to put forward a different design, was disbanded early in 1946, never having served as a unit in Britain. The original 273 Squadron badge was displayed during the war but never received official approval.

On their return home its

members were told that, since the squadron no longer existed, a badge could not be granted retrospectively. Consequently it could not be commemorated, along with other squadrons, on the floor of St Clement Danes or in the RAF museum at Hendon.

Last June, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, confirmed in the Commons that the rule still applied. However, he added that a badge could be granted to an official squadron association. He also said that the trustees of St Clement Danes would give "sympathetic consideration" to an application for a memorial.

An association was duly formed last September under the presidency of Squadron Leader Jesse Hibbert, the squadron's last commander, who accepted the Japanese surrender in Saigon in 1945. The association has since been recognised by the Ministry of Defence as representing the interests of those who fought with the squadron in the war.

A final hitch occurred when it was found that there was no space between 272 and 274 squadrons on the church floor. Instead, the new



Jane Pelling, whose brother Ian flew with 273 Squadron, and the Trevor Lay painting of Spitfires over Burma

badge, without the fylfot and displaying the crown of the Queen instead of George VI, will have an honoured place next to that of No 1 Squadron.

the oldest of them all. Jane Pelling, whose late brother, Ian, flew with the squadron, has played a leading role in organising the

campaign for recognition. She hopes that sales of a limited edition of prints will help to defray part of the cost. The painting of Spitfires

flying over Burma, by Trevor Lay, is a rare depiction of the famous fighter aircraft operating outside the European theatre.

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Channel 5 wins over first-night audience

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

CHANNEL 5 was celebrating yesterday after viewing figures for its opening night exceeded its predictions and those of Channel 4.

Unofficial figures for Sunday gave the new channel a 5.8 per cent share of all viewing during the peak hours of 6.30pm and 10.30pm. Sally Osman, head of corporate affairs, said: "There was a lot of publicity about the launch. Nevertheless this is a very good result, especially when only 60 per cent of people can receive Channel 5. We are aiming for an overall 5 per cent by the end of the year." The introductory programme, starring the Spice Girls, drew the biggest audience. 2.3 million people.

Channel 4, which has an average audience share of about 11 per cent, attracted 4.7 per cent during peak time. A spokesman said: "It is a good start for Channel 5, but it does not necessarily indicate what the long term will be."

Channel 4 is to run a twice-yearly programme, *Trial and Error*, appealing for viewers to solve miscarriages of justice and clear convicted prisoners, using reconstruction techniques similar to the BBC's *Crimewatch UK*.

Research finds root of E. coli's resistance

By NIGEL HAWKES

SCIENTISTS have discovered a powerful new mechanism by which bacteria can resist antibiotic drugs. The finding suggests that it may become increasingly difficult to treat bacterial infections.

Eitan Bibi and Rotem Edgar, of the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel, discovered the new mechanism while studying drug resistance in *E. coli*, the common gut bacterium. The 0157 form has killed 20 people in Scotland recently.

The scientists report in *Journal of Bacteriology* that they found in the bacterium a molecule, which they called MdfA, capable of acting as a pump to eject toxic compounds and other unwanted materials from the cell. These unwanted materials might include potentially lifesaving drugs.

The fact that virtually all organisms have such systems in their cells is known, but the Israeli researchers found that MdfA is remarkably effective in expelling many different types of drugs.

"This highlights the dormant potential of some bacteria to survive even complex antibiotic treatments, and presents a challenge for future therapies," Dr Bibi said.

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On 'Secret papers show 104 Nazis found haven with Franco

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

GENERAL FRANCO gave refuge to more than 100 active German Nazis at the end of the Second World War and provided many with new identities, according to a classified Allied document published here in the newspaper *El País*.

The revelation will excite historians and biographers of Franco, most of whom believed that the Caudillo kept a scrupulous distance from the seamy side of Hitler's wartime enterprise.

The 11-folio document, unearthed in the archives of the Spanish Ministry of External Affairs, lists the names, possible addresses in Spain and wartime activities of 104 Germans. The men were members of the SS, Gestapo or Abwehr — the military counter-intelligence service run by Admiral Canaris.

The catalogue of names, entitled the *Repatriation List*, was compiled by the Allied secret services, including MI5.

It was presented to the Franco regime in late 1945, as a preliminary basis for extradition proceedings. The Spanish Government, however, refused to hand over a single man. There is no recorded explanation of why the Allies did not persevere with their repatriation demands.

Many of the Nazis identified in the document were members of Spain's large German community when war broke out in 1939. According to the newspaper, they volunteered enthusiastically for the Nazi cause, serving mainly in the Abwehr.

A number of them were businessmen in the Basque country, then Spain's industrial heartland, and were active in the clandestine supply from Spain to Germany of essential raw materials such as tungsten. The Franco regime was paid in gold by the German Government, much of it stolen from Jews and shipped to

Madrid with the help of the Swiss National Bank.

According to *El País*, Abwehr members in Spain included Friedrich Lipperheide, a German entrepreneur who made a fortune before the war in the Basque country.

But his son, Federico, a board member of Banco Bilbao Vizcaya, Spain's most powerful bank, denied his father was a Nazi. He said: "That is false. In fact, he hated them."

El País says that all but one of the people named in the document are dead. The survivor, identified by the newspaper as Hans Juretschke, 88, a former professor in the department of German literature at Madrid's Complutense University, said: "I had nothing to do with politics. During the war I had to follow the orders of the German Government. It happened to be a Nazi Government."

Albanian threat to Italian-led aid force

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

DESPITE the misgivings of military experts and opposition politicians, Italy will agree final details tomorrow for a multinational intervention force in Albania.

Greece and Romania declared their readiness yesterday to commit troops alongside Italy, France, Spain and Turkey. Military commanders from the Mediterranean coalition meet in Rome tomorrow and half the force — about 3,000 men — is expected to go into action "within the next two weeks", supported by light armour, with the rest held in reserve.

But in a sign of the obstacles the force will face in "pacifying" Albania and protecting aid convoys, rebel leaders in the southern port of Vlore gave a warning that Italian troops would be killed.

Thousands of people in Vlore turned out to condemn Italy for an incident late last Friday when an Italian corvette collided with an Albanian vessel packed with



Relatives in Albania's port of Vlore mourn victims of the refugee ship which collided with an Italian vessel

refugees that it was trying to intercept. Survivors say more than 100 people, mainly women and children, died, although Italy says only four bodies were recovered. Thirty-four survived. President Berisha ordered flags to stand at half-mast throughout Alba-

nia yesterday, and MPs in Tirana stood for a minute's silence.

The Italian aim is to stabilise Albania and so stem the tide of refugees to Italy, a European diplomat said. "But the mood has turned against Italy because of this tragedy".

Vlore, 40 miles across the Adriatic from Italy, has such close links with the former colonial power that its calls bear Italian names and its people speak Italian fluently. Italian defence officials said the "international protection force", to be deployed in

rotation, would consist of 2,000 to 2,500 Italian troops, with 1,000 from France, 700 from Greece, 500 each from Spain and Turkey, and 400 from Romania, with a few from Hungary and Austria. Switzerland and Slovenia have offered police.

Le Pen launches plan to send migrants home

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S National Front wound up a tumultuous party congress in Strasbourg yesterday by outlining an election platform that the party leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, proclaimed would be a passport to parliament.

The party called for the repatriation of immigrants, the reinstatement of the death penalty and the repeal of laws banning the incitement of racial hatred which the National Front claims infringe freedom of speech.

The party argued that sending millions of immigrants home would be an act of kindness. "If France is hit by unemployment, Third World nations suffer from a cruel lack of qualified workers... sending immigrants home would thus be a benefit to both parties," the party's officials declared.

Another National Front working group proposed that France's birth rate could be boosted and marriage encouraged by giving salaries to mothers providing, of course, they are native-born French citizens.

Meanwhile, the Left hailed

a weekend rally by at least 40,000 people opposed to the ultra-nationalist party as proof of the Front's unpopularity, but many observers say the demonstrations have played into M Le Pen's hands by propelling him and his xenophobic ideology into the political limelight.

Re-elected unopposed as leader, M Le Pen has taken full advantage of the avid media attention, portraying himself as the head of a band of incorruptible outcasts unfairly victimised by the political establishment. Supporters of the National Front are a "caste of less-than-citizens, pariahs who remind us of plague victims during the Middle Ages or the Jews of Nazi Germany", M Le Pen told 2,200 National Front delegates. Certainly, many of M Le Pen's detractors would agree with his plague comparison and, for a politician repeatedly accused of anti-Semitism, his reference to the persecution of Jews was calculated to enrage.

Rioting after Saturday's rally led to dozens of arrests and four members of the National Front — a regional councillor and three of the party's security personnel — remained in custody yesterday after they allegedly masqueraded as policemen and beat up some protesters.

M Le Pen, 69, has consistently refused to discuss his possible successor as leader, but Bruno Mégret, his deputy and the principal party ideologist, has emerged from the congress as the party's most likely heir apparent. Widely regarded as the real victor when his wife was elected Mayor of Vitrolles earlier this year, M Mégret won most votes in elections for the central committee.



Mégret emerging as the heir apparent

Belarus and Russia to sign unity pact

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

THE Presidents of Russia and Belarus are due to sign an accord tomorrow on the creation of a union of the two countries as the first step of a grandiose plan for the political, economic and military reintegration of the former Soviet Union.

The agreement, details of which have not been made public and which was drawn up without consulting either parliament, has been roundly condemned by liberal politicians in Russia, as well as nationalists in Belarus who regard it as a serious erosion of independence.

It flouts the mood of other leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States, who at last weekend's Moscow summit showed they are more interested in strengthening national sovereignty than moving towards reintegration into a de facto Russian-led superstate.

The treaty appears to be based on a draft submitted by President Lukashenko of Belarus to President Yeltsin. This provides for a Supreme Council, to be chaired by the two Presidents on a rotating

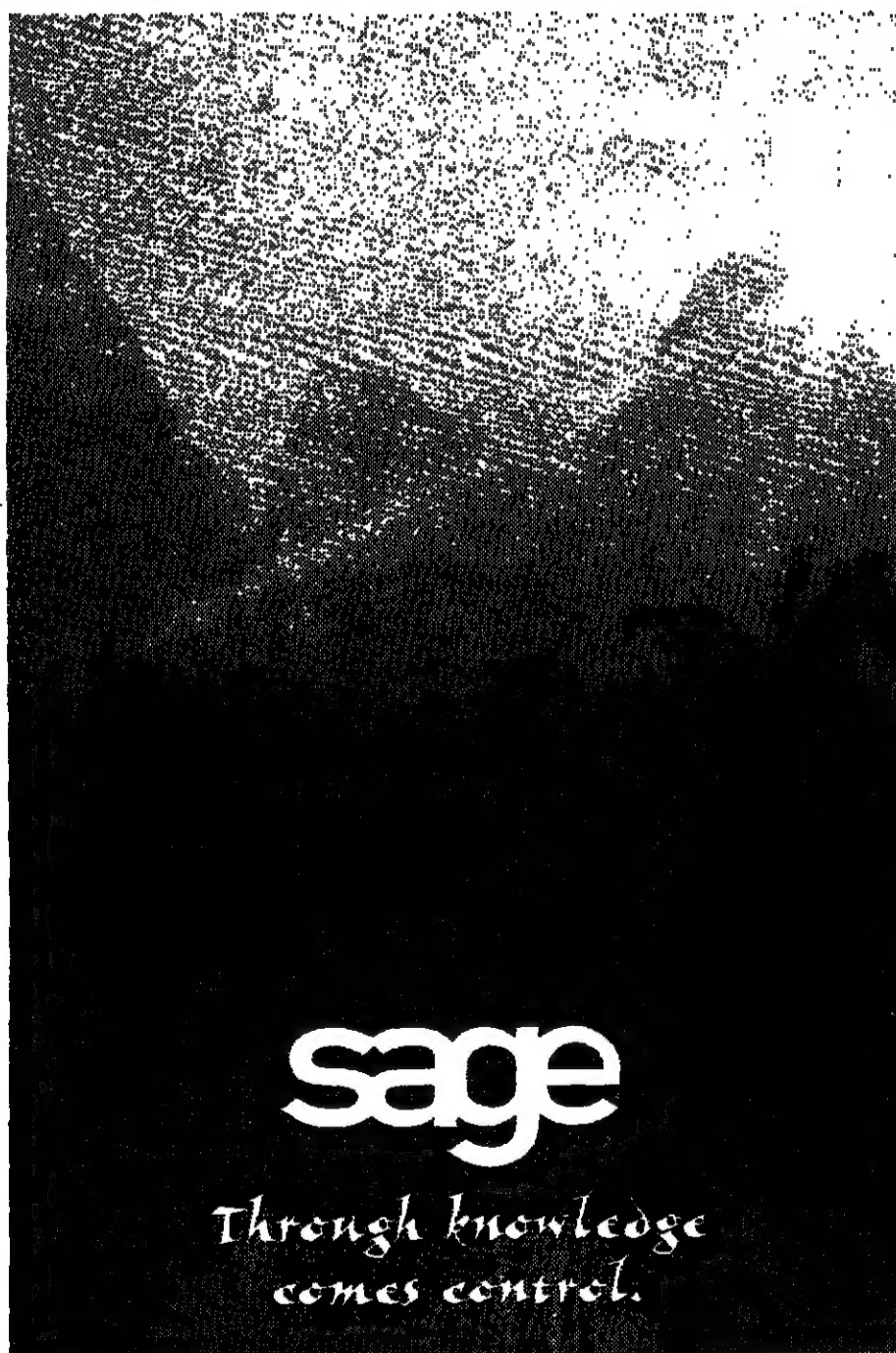
basis and including the two Prime Ministers and parliamentary Speakers. It envisages a single currency and co-ordinated economic and social policies.

Mr Lukashenko, 42, has made no secret of his desire to tie his bankrupt and under-performing country — where production has fallen since the Soviet Union's collapse and few goods can be found on shelves outside the capital, Minsk — to the relatively powerful Russian economy.

Since his landslide election in 1994 on an anti-corruption platform, the former farm director has scrapped nationalist symbols for the past and denounced the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Russian political and economic analysts point out that any attempt to unite two economies that have become so diverse in the past five years would place an intolerable burden on Russia. There has been virtually no attempt in Belarus to stabilise the currency, curb inflation or reorganise industry and agriculture.

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Suicide cult crew 'on space odyssey'

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

AS THEIR earthly bodies are cremated in San Diego, the 39 dead members of the Heaven's Gate cult are almost a week into their long-awaited space odyssey to the realm of the Hale-Bopp comet, a former member of the sect has declared.

Some of the suicide cult's beliefs, dismissed by mainstream America as evidence of outright lunacy, are still cherished by a stubborn few who once followed its leader and wish they had gone with him to the "Next Level", it was revealed in interviews at the weekend.

"I believe they are on a spacecraft somewhere," Nick Cooke, a former disciple of Marshall Applewhite, the cult leader, told a San Francisco radio station. "Whether it's behind the comet or not I really don't know but I wish I had the strength to have stuck it out and gotten stronger and continued to be a part of that group."

Mr Cooke, whose wife stayed in the cult and was among the victims of last week's mass suicide in Rancho Santa Fe, said he did not believe she was dead but merely transported out of the "shell" or "container" of her body into a literal Heaven as a benevolent alien.

"I don't believe that she committed suicide," said Mr Cooke's daughter, Kelly, whose parents both deserted her for the cult when she was ten. "Suicide is a strong word to use when you consider that this is something she worked for all her life," she added.

Meanwhile, two investors have made offers near the \$1.6 million (£1 million) asking price for the cult's rented "mansion of death", an estate agent said. The investors hoped to "save the neighbourhood" by buying the property and tearing it down, the agent said.

Next Nato commander is Oxford graduate

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON has chosen an army general who, like him, grew up in Arkansas and attended Oxford as a Rhodes scholar, to be the next military commander of Nato and head of US forces in Europe. General Wesley Clark will take over from General George Joulwan, who is due to retire this summer.

General Clark brings formidable skills to the task. He has been on the fast track ever since leaving West Point. He speaks Russian and was the senior military member of the team led by Richard Holbrooke that negotiated the Dayton peace accords that halted fighting in Bosnia.

As Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Clark will have to deal with Nato's expansion, relations with a suspicious Russia and the promised withdrawal of Nato forces from Bosnia next year. "We wanted someone who is both a soldier and a statesman, someone with diplomatic and policy experience," a Pentagon official said.

William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, recommended General Clark after interviewing more than a dozen generals. An aspect of General Clark's career that has attracted attention is the extent to which his and Mr Clinton's paths have crossed. At 52, the general is only two years older than the President.



Clark: "wide diplomatic and policy experience"

There has been a widespread but mistaken impression that the general and the President have enjoyed a long association, but they did not know each other in Arkansas, where they grew up in different towns, and their periods at Oxford did not overlap. He left Oxford with a masters in philosophy, politics and economics.

The two men first met during a student conference at Georgetown University in Washington in 1965 and did not see each other again for 19 years when General Clark, visiting his parents in Little Rock, dropped in to see Mr Clinton who was then Governor of Arkansas. Two years ago, when Mr Clinton was asked if he knew General Clark, he is said to have replied: "I know Wes Clark, and he hasn't needed any help from me."

His "ticker" was punched in all the right places on his way to the top, as well as his Oxford masters' he attended national war college and general staff college; was a company commander in Vietnam; a battalion and division commander; held a White House fellowship; was head of army training and director of strategy, Pentagon joint staff. At Nato headquarters, he was a senior military assistant to Alexander Haig, a former commander.

General Clark is at present head of Southern Command, based in Panama, the senior American military post in Latin America. General Joulwan, too, held the Southern Command appointment before moving to the post of Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

Nato's supreme commander is always an American, but France is embroiled in a rift with the US over why that should also be true for command of the alliance's forces in southern Europe. The Clinton Administration is refusing to yield to French demands for a non-American in the post.



Aesha, a white tiger, grooms her two cubs born at the weekend in Oviedo, Florida. The birth of the animals, whose sex is not yet known, brings the known total of the species to 62 individuals, all in captivity

Air ace wins honour of Yamamoto kill

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

A FIGHTER ACE in the Second World War has won his long battle for recognition for shooting down the mastermind of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

US Air Force Colonel Rex Barber, 79, has been awarded full credit by fellow veterans for killing Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander of Japan's Imperial Fleet, in one of the most celebrated missions in the Pacific.

The American Fighter Aces Association — for pilots who each shot down at least five planes — has ruled that Colonel Barber shot down Admiral Yamamoto's bomber "alone and unassisted".

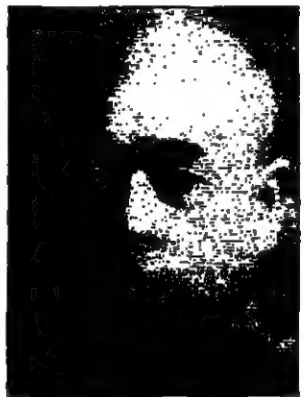
Colonel Barber has always had to share credit for the

extraordinary ambush of Japan's top admiral with his former friend and fellow-pilot, Colonel Thomas Lanphier, who died in 1987.

"It's a good bonus all right," Colonel Barber said yesterday from his home in Terrebonne, Oregon. Colonels Barber and Lanphier were pilots in the 339th Fighter Squadron of 16 Lockheed P-38 Lightning fighters based at Guadalcanal. On April 18, 1943, their squadron was ordered to intercept Yamamoto as he flew on an inspection tour from Rabaul in New Guinea to the Solomon Islands.

It is widely accepted that Colonel Barber hit Yamamoto's bomber first, but Lanphier said he also fired at it. Since neither fighter was equipped with camera gun-sights, there is no photo-

graphic evidence to verify the claims. "I came in behind him and shot," Colonel Barber said. "He was smoking pretty badly, especially the right engine. Suddenly, he flipped



Yamamoto: his plane went down in jungle

up on one wing and I almost collided with him ... he crashed into the jungle."

The mission was kept secret until the end of the war to protect the fact that US Navy codebreakers had deciphered Japan's communications code. After the war, Lanphier was the first to go public with his claim to have shot down the Japanese commander. The New York Times told his story in September 1945.

"He had great visions of being a great man," Colonel Barber said. "He did anything he could to get all the glory for himself."

The American Fighter Aces Association has settled the case as a matter of honour, but its decision is not binding on the US Air Force and the official record is expected to remain unchanged.

McVeigh bomb jury selection begins

FROM TOM RHODES
IN DENVER

JURY selection for the trial of Timothy McVeigh over the Oklahoma City bomb began in Denver, Colorado, yesterday with about 350 potential jurors being questioned.

The jury pool will be whittled down to 64 before the panel of 12 and six alternates are finally chosen. Both sides are believed to be employing expert jury consultants, including Donald Vinson, who worked on the O.J. Simpson criminal trial, who is reportedly helping Joseph Hartzler, the chief prosecutor.

The Simpson case left an indelible mark on America and McVeigh jurors, unlike their predecessors in Santa Monica, may return home at weekends. Judge Richard Matsch has guaranteed their anonymity.

Paid \$40 (£25) a day, rising to \$50 after a month, the jurors will hear a largely circumstantial prosecution case. The Government has no witnesses who can place Mr McVeigh in Oklahoma City on the day of the attack and many survivors fear he has a chance of walking free.

However, the defence yesterday faced the daunting task of selecting a jury that could ignore Mr McVeigh's many published alleged confessions to the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building on April 19, 1995.

"If there was ever a trial in American history where the defendant needed honest and candid responses from potential jurors, it's this trial," said Robert Hirschhorn, a jury consultant working for Terry Nichols, Mr McVeigh's co-accused, who is to be tried separately.

Despite the fact that 168 people were killed in the bombing, the two men are charged with only eight counts of first-degree murder. This is because such charges in federal courts are reserved for the alleged killing of government law enforcement officers on duty. Frank Keating, the Governor of Oklahoma, has indicated that murder charges relating to the 160 other people killed in the blast may be filed later in state courts. The two men are also accused of three bomb-related offences.

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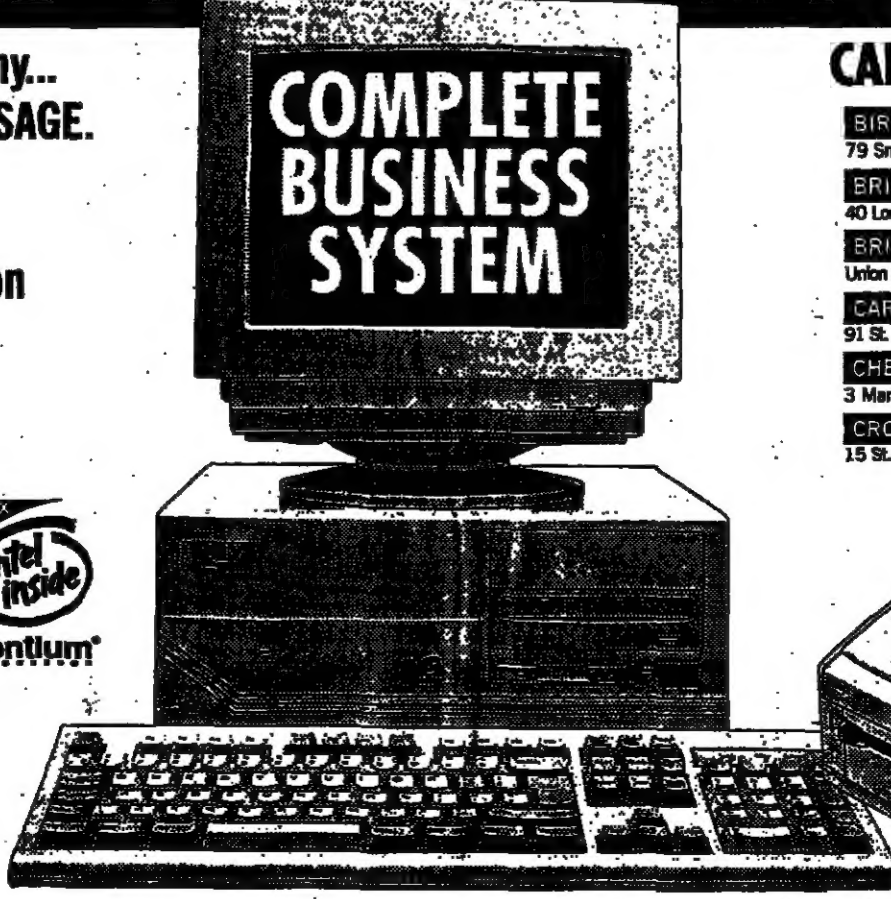
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Israel ridicules threatened renewal of Arab boycott

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL ridiculed the call from the 22-member Arab League to reimpose an economic boycott on the Jewish state and accused the Arabs yesterday of scheming to topple the right-wing Government of Benjamin Netanyahu.

The war of words erupted as violence between Israeli troops and stone-throwing Palestinian rioters continued for the twelfth consecutive day in the West Bank town of Jenin, one of those given Palestinian self-rule as part of the now threatened peace plan. Israeli troops firing rubber bullets wounded two Palestinians as they were attacked by a crowd of 200. Throughout the West Bank, Israeli tanks and assault helicopters remained on alert in case violence worsened.

Diplomats said that the rapid deterioration in relations between Israel and the Arab world had increased the urgency for President Clinton, who is meeting King Hussein of Jordan in Washington this week, to launch a diplomatic initiative in an attempt to defuse the increasing tensions.

The new erosion in the hopes for peace generated by the 1993 Oslo peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians came with a resolution from the Arab League in Cairo recommending member states to suspend normal relations with Israel and to reinstate the Arab boycott, which has largely fallen into disuse.

David Levy, the Israeli Foreign Minister, said that the Arab move, taken in protest against the continued building of a settlement for 32,000 Jews at Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem, was part of a determined attempt to try to overthrow Mr Netanyahu's Government. "The peace process does not tolerate and will not tolerate an atmosphere of violence, not on the ground and not in diplomatic violence," Mr Levy said as members of the Likud coalition rallied in support of the Prime Minister.

In a combative interview with Israel radio, Mr Netanyahu accused the Arabs of "ganging up" on Israel and expressed anger with Egypt, which hosted the League summit and which is seen by Israel as failing to take action to halt a takeover of the League by radicals.

"I was deeply disappointed [in the attitude of Egypt]," Mr Netanyahu said. "The Egyptians have got to make up their minds: what do they want, a Middle East of peace or a

Middle East of perpetual conflict?" He responded with scorn to suggestions by the interviewer that the decision to go ahead with Har Homa, which has prompted street violence in which nearly 500 Palestinians have been injured, might be reversible.

Mr Netanyahu dismissed the call for a renewal of the Arab boycott. "It is an absurd idea that the boycott will be reinstated. It is not to be reinstated because it cannot be reinstated. We live in an open world, economic currents flow. Israel is a technological power with many, many ties to many, many countries."

"I say [to the Arabs]: leave the past behind and go to the future. The only way to resolve our differences is to talk to one another about them, not to try and coerce Israel by these pressure tactics or by fear, or by violence or by terror. We will not be cowed."

Mr Netanyahu made clear that there was no question of reopening peace talks with Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, until he proved that he was making a determined effort to root out Islamic terrorists.

In Cairo, Farouq al-Shara, the Syrian Foreign Minister, was jubilant after the boycott decision was taken and said he was confident that those Arab states that had been considering normalising ties with Israel would have to comply.

Leading article, page 19



Speculators rush to sell shares outside Bombay Stock Exchange yesterday as a governmental crisis pitched India into a period of uncertainty

Indian MPs barter coalition votes for cash

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S 13-party coalition Government was told yesterday to seek a vote of confidence by April 11. There will now be an intense period of "suitcase politics", the illegal practice of handing bags of money to MPs in return for their support.

The custom, also known euphemistically as horse-trading, could determine the shape of the Government. H. D. Deve Gowda, the

Prime Minister, stands little chance of saving his administration after losing the parliamentary support of the Congress party on Sunday.

Four days of talks in Delhi between India and Pakistan, the first in three years and the most promising in decades, ended yesterday effectively in ruins because of the political upheaval. There was no point in Pakistan making overtures to what could be a dying Government and the Indian side lost political momentum as the administration tottered.

Both sides ended the session with expressions of hope for the future: itself a mark of progress, but meaningless while India has no viable Government. It was agreed to resume the talks in Islamabad as a date to be fixed.

Sitaram Kesri, president of the Congress party, said last night that he was confident of getting enough support to form a new administration under his prime ministership. His decision to withdraw support from the Government took the party by surprise —

save for its inner circle — and was described by some as a "death wish" because of the danger of failure.

Sharad Pawar, a senior party leader, said it was "a bolt from the blue". Most MPs are still baffled why Mr Kesri did it. He is under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation in various cases, including the alleged bribery of MPs before a confidence vote that was narrowly won by the last Congress-led Government. The circumstances of the

death of his former physician are also being investigated.

Mr Kesri's attempt to gain power seems to have been launched in extraordinary haste, leading to speculation about some unexplained personal motivation. His party has 46 fewer MPs than the United Front coalition.

Mr Gowda hopes that the Congress party will split so that he can capture the support of a chunk of its MPs, particularly those allied to Mr Pawar, with whom he has a close relationship.

Chinese Communists insist they hold no political prisoners

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

BEIJING declared yesterday that there were no political prisoners in China and described more than 2,000 "counter-revolutionaries" as criminals.

The Government also congratulated France on dropping its co-sponsorship of a United Nations resolution criticising China's human rights record.

Zhang Xiufu, the Executive Deputy Minister of Justice, said: "In China, counter-revolutionary pris-

oners are not political prisoners, they are prisoners who have endangered national security ... or have conducted activities to overthrow the political power of China."

This includes prisoners like Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan, who are serving their second long prison sentences, imposed at their brief trials for what they had written. A recent US State Department annual human rights report on China observed that all public dissent had been silenced.

The Chinese statement on political prisoners came two days after

Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, said in Beijing: "America cannot remain silent about the lack of freedom — speech, religion, assembly, the press — in China."

Yesterday the official People's Daily newspaper congratulated France for announcing that it would not sponsor a motion for the forthcoming UN meeting in Geneva on human rights condemning China's record. "This is a wise decision," the paper said. A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Friday: "We know that the rule of

law is far from being established in China and that this process will take time, but a choice must be made between a confrontation that is cut off from reality and a constructive dialogue."

Shen Guofang, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said he hoped other countries would follow the French example, but added that even dialogue must not be "a tool for exerting political pressure."

Over the weekend Yukihiko Ikeda, Japan's Foreign Minister, told Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, that Tokyo was also

considering dropping its support for the UN resolution. The US has said it will support the move, which is defeated each year after Beijing mobilises support from other countries with human rights problems, such as Burma and Indonesia.

Yesterday Beijing's State Council released a 13,000-word report outlining the country's progress on human rights. Divided into seven parts, it includes democratic rights, judicial guarantees, women and children, minorities and workers.

It emphasises Beijing's familiar theme that China concentrates on

food, clothing and shelter, and states: "Statistics show that China is the country which has witnessed the quickest decrease in its poverty-stricken population."

But it also says that China is improving its legal structure and healthcare and that "the severe crackdown on crime has safeguarded social stability and the human rights of the people all over the country and won the heartfelt support of the general public."

The crackdown, known as "strike hard," included the detention of a few remaining dissidents.



Wang: second long term in prison

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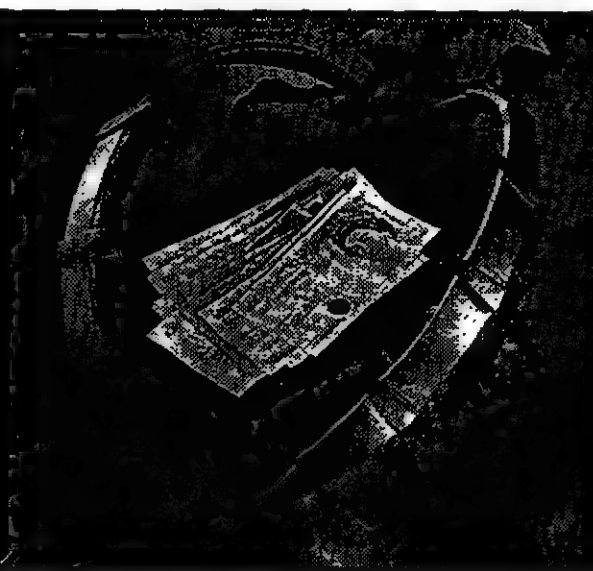
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Zaire rebels reach diamond-rich heartland

By SAM KILEY
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

ZAIRE'S rebels yesterday looked set to roll unopposed into the country's economic heartland after taking the centre of the rail system for the two richest provinces without a battle before peace talks, expected to start in South Africa this week.

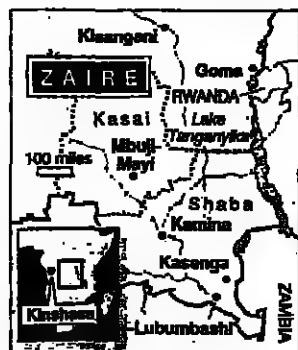
Forces under the command of Laurent Kabila yesterday overran Kamina which controls rail access to Kasai, the diamond-rich province, and Shaba, its southern neighbour. Residents in both areas are waiting for the arrival of the rebels and have said that they will not put up a fight.

Groups of rebel fighters under Tutsi officers have been reported heading towards Shaba and Kasai by rail over the last few weeks, having captured the artery which runs east to Lake Tanganyika earlier this year. But the prospect of them alighting in Lubumbashi, capital of Shaba province, and in Mbuji-Mayi, the centre of East Kasai's diamond industry, looked very close yesterday after the fall of Kamina, 400 miles northwest of the Shaba capital.

"The only thing that has been slowing down the rebel advance across Zaire has been geography. It's a very big country to walk across and there are very few roads," said a Western ambassador in Kinshasa yesterday.

"We expect them to turn up in Lubumbashi and Mbuji-Mayi perhaps by the weekend," he added.

The sudden strategic blow to the Government of President Mobutu came as both sides were preparing to meet



for talks on a ceasefire in South Africa next week. With every town and city that falls both analysts and the rebels themselves have been asking what there is left to talk about.

Already the governors of Shaba and Kasai have openly stated that they are looking forward to the arrival of Mr Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for Liberation Congo-Zaire, because their administrative record in the third of the country already captured has been impressive.

In preparation the streets of Lubumbashi have been swept and whitewashed, the first time in more than a decade. Locally based soldiers have been ordered to maintain strict discipline on pain of death and to put up no resistance when the rebels finally arrive, members of Mr Mobutu's own family said recently.

Three decades of dictatorial rule have left most Zaireans worse off than when they were under Belgian colonial domination, when failure to meet rubber quotas often meant the amputation of a hand.

Mr Kabila, 57, a Luba tribesman from northern Shaba province, is now seen by the majority of Zaireans as someone who can restore the rule of



Rwandan refugees, most of them Hutus, arriving at a camp near Kisangani after fleeing from rebels who yesterday took a vital rail centre

law after 31 years of "kleptocracy" under Mr Mobutu. So far he has captured verdant agricultural areas, but his moral mettle will be tested when his men jump off the trains in Mbuji-Mayi and Lubumbashi. The fields around the former are pockmarked with diamond diggers

few feet deep. In 1992 a \$7 million gem was harvested by a peasant.

Lubumbashi, the industrial capital of Zaire, is rich in uranium and copper, but its main "cash crop" is cobalt. More valuable than gold, the metal is an essential ingredient for jet engines and is the

subject of a large amount of smuggling. "The temptations are obvious," the Western ambassador said.

□ Goma: Some 30,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees, who have fled the troubled Zairean region of Masisi, were yesterday less than 30 miles west of Goma, a United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees official said. Filippo Grandi added that the refugees had earlier fled two camps in northern Goma and were sheltering in Masisi where, according to the Government in Kinshasa, Rwandan Hutu extremists have launched a campaign of "ethnic cleans-

ing" to create a "Hutuland" for Hutus who refuse to return to Rwanda. Yesterday the refugees agency opened a new camp near the northeast Zairean town of Kisangani to provide relief for some 20,000 refugees at large in the region since the town fell to rebels two weeks ago. (AFP)

Gunman to die for school killings

SANSA: A Yemeni gunman was sentenced to death by firing squad yesterday for killing a headmistress, a teacher and three children at two schools here on Sunday. Muhammad Ahmad Mishleh al-Nazari will be allowed to appeal today. Al-Nazari, who is charged with murdering five people, the anticipated murder of 12 and resisting arrest, said he intended to kill the headmistress's husband. He said that the couple approved the kidnap and rape of his eight-year-old daughter. The court heard that tests showed she was still a virgin. (Reuters)

Laundered cash goes flying

TOKYO: A Japanese man is trying to recover 8 million yen (£38,650) which his two-year-old daughter threw off their balcony in Osaka, newspapers reported here. The man had withdrawn the money from the bank to buy a lorry for his construction business and his wife put it out to dry after it was accidentally included in the washing. (AFP)

Out of action

IBIZA: Abel Manuets, 55, the Spanish Foreign Minister, will need two months to recover from a mild heart attack he suffered over the weekend, doctors said. Señor Manuets was spending the Easter weekend on his native Ibiza. He has now left intensive care. (AFP)

Pig of a life

TAIPEI: A Taiwan Buddhist group says it plans to erect a shrine here and pray for good reincarnations for more than a million pigs that were destroyed during a recent widespread outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. (Reuters)



Napoleon, depicted in exile on St Helena. Now the island's jobless also face despair

St Helena seeks investors as British aid dwindles

By MICHAEL BENYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ST HELENA, one of Britain's poorest and most isolated remaining colonies, may sink into oblivion and despair unless more outside investment can be directed to the South Atlantic island best known as the final exile of Napoleon.

The Foreign Office has launched a series of conferences

to win new business for the remote territory, where unemployment is over 18 per cent and three quarters of the population are employed by the colonial government.

St Helena, uninhabited on its discovery in 1502 and with a population now of 6,000, from mixed British and Indian descent, has virtually no natural resources, no airport and a massive annual budget deficit. Latest figures show

that it imported goods worth £4,692,000, but its exports were only £145,000. Britain makes up the difference, with budgetary aid last year amounting to £3,680,000.

St Helena receives more than £8 million a year, the highest amount per head of British aid anywhere in the world. But British funds are dwindling. Aid was cut by 20 per cent between 1993 and 1994, and social distress and unrest are growing.

Sir Nicholas Bonsor, the Foreign Office Minister of State who opened the business forum last month, said Britain wanted to make the island self-sufficient and prosperous. The Government is trying to reduce the dependence on the public sector and develop a private sector. The aim is to encourage new jobs and investment.

Napoleon, who was exiled on the island, died there in 1821.



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I may never see my sons again



Heartbroken: "The bond between mother and child should never be broken," says Catherine Laylle

Her bad dreams may be less frequent now but they are still as traumatic and exhausting as when they began more than two years ago: two frightened boys call continuously for their mother. She cries out in her sleep, powerless to help them in their fear and isolation.

But waking brings no relief for Catherine Laylle — reality is her worst nightmare. Her sons Alexander and Constantin may never call out for their mother again. They are neither frightened nor isolated but apparently content to live with the father who abducted them almost three years ago.

In 1984 Catherine Laylle, who is half-French and half-British, married Hans Peter Volkmann, a young German doctor. He was, she says, "dangerously needy" while she was hopelessly romantic.

Incompatibility was to divide the couple six years later, but they agreed that for the sake of their two young sons, the separation would be "amicable". Alexander, now 12, and Constantin, 10, would live with their mother in London — where the couple married — and spend holidays with their father in Lower Saxony.

But with hindsight, Ms Laylle, 43, realises that she failed to appreciate her husband's anger and bitterness over the breakdown of the marriage and dissolution of the family. While agreeing terms with the lawyers, he was in fact hatching a plot to abduct his sons.

Smoking constantly, she says: "I don't think I'll ever see them again. I must learn to dissociate myself from my emotions: you either take your own life or fight."

Ms Laylle remembers her astonishment and fury when in July 1994 Herr Volkmann, having failed to be granted *ex parte* custody by a German court, disappeared with the boys four days before they were due to be returned to their mother.

"A British judge made the children wards of court the following month and under the terms of the Hague Convention — which both Britain and Germany have signed — ordered their return."

Herr Volkmann was given 30 minutes to say goodbye to his sons after a German court in his home town of Verden ruled that his action was unlawful. However, he bundled the boys into a waiting car and went on the run once more.

By the time Ms Laylle had tracked them down, he had appealed to a higher court in Celle. Three judges upheld Herr Volkmann's appeal — based on evidence from a German social worker and a psychiatrist — that Alexander and Constantin, "felt German" and had been branded "Nazis" by fellow pupils at the exclusive Knightsbridge prep school where they had been sent by their mother.

Before their abduction, Ms Laylle's relationship with her sons had been extraordinarily close. But the transformation she witnessed in the courtroom still haunts her. The children who once clung to her were hostile and confused.

"Alexander did not look at me and started to hit me with his arms and legs," she says. "I was flabbergasted, shocked,

Catherine Laylle's sons were abducted by their father but the German courts still granted him custody. Interview by Bill Frost

staggered... What had they done to my children?

"I turned to Constantin, tears in my eyes. He turned his head to one side to avoid looking at me... I ran out of the courtroom, sobbing."

"Who were these judges to ruin my life? After half-an-hour in a courtroom they have built a wall between a mother and her sons which will probably never be torn down."

"The only systems I know which take a child from a mother are totalitarian. The bond should never be broken. It is the strongest emotional tie of them all."

Ms Laylle believes her sons were "brainwashed... turned against me by their father and his parents in Germany".



With Alexander and Constantin

Certainly, photographs of the two boys and their mother which decorate her South Kensington flat appear to underline the closest of bonds.

"Alexander and Constantin have been programmed to believe I am the woman who abandoned them, the mother who never loved them. They are now little strangers who have been instructed to fear me."

As she pulled herself back from the brink of a nervous breakdown in 1995, Ms Laylle decided to fight for the children. But her faith in natural and European justice was to be destroyed.

Her lawyers told her the European Court would not be interested in the case. "Apparently, a custody order imposed by one member state and disputed by another does not concern them. I cannot understand the logic," she says.

"The High Court ordered that the boys be returned but the German judiciary just ignored the ruling. Aren't we all supposed to be part of the same European Union,

acknowledging our common links and common humanity?"

"A mother has seen her sons stolen and what have the authorities done? Where is the great British justice I believed in?"

Since the Celle ruling, Ms Laylle has access to her sons in Germany, but only under the supervision of social workers at her husband's family home in a remote corner of Lower Saxony. The visits proved so traumatic for all concerned that she has not seen the boys since last May.

Ms Laylle was "escorted" by a chauffeur from the British Consulate in Hamburg for what she says was to be her final visit. "Without him, I would have been frightened and intimidated by the presence of my husband's family."

However, the chauffeur could not protect her from the pain of her sons' rejection. "Alexander looked incredibly sad — drained of childhood. Constantin seemed not even to have noticed I was there. It seemed that they could not wait for the visit to be over."

"For all our sakes, I decided I could not go any more. It was so harrowing — their blank faces, a social worker eavesdropping on every word and my husband listening to us from a room next door."

Her regular telephone calls now go unanswered. Either there is no reply, or Ms Laylle's messages on the answer machine are ignored. She does not know if her sons are aware of her concern or are willing to drift further away from her.

Lighting another cigarette, Ms Laylle speaks sadly of how her parents — now both in their 80s — will never again see the grandsons they doted on. "I hope I can deal with my sadness, but for my father and mother this is so unutterably sad. They simply do not understand why the family has been so cruelly separated."

In desperation, she has thought of snatching the boys back but she has abandoned the idea because she feels sure that her sons would not be willing participants in any plot. "I fear they have been so programmed against me now that they would not come home to London with their mother," she says.

"I remain devoted to my sons. I could not start another family now — it would seem so disloyal to Alexander and Constantin, and yet the loneliness without them is sometimes almost unbearable."

Determined that something positive should be salvaged from the wreckage of her family life, Ms Laylle now campaigns tirelessly for a change in the Hague Convention to protect parents in similar circumstances.

"It may be too late for me, because all I can hope for now is that the boys might want to see me when they grow up and become curious about their mother. But there must be hope for all the others who may have children abducted in the future."

"Nothing will make me happy any more, but at least I have rediscovered my dignity and fighting spirit."

© Catherine Laylle's story. Two Children Behind a Wall, was published last week by Arrow, £5.99.

A priest accused of heresy

When the Pope tells you to go to hell, that is exactly what he means. To the astonishment of the Roman Catholic world, he has just excommunicated one of his priests, a Sri Lankan theologian, for heresy. Excommunication means that Father Tissa Balasuriya cannot share communion at Mass and, as a result, the salvation offered by Jesus.

The speed and severity and medieval nature of the penalty have caused a storm of protest from theologians, who fear the punishment is intended *pour encourager les autres*. It is a particularly cruel penalty for Father Balasuriya, a 72-year-old man who has devoted his life to the Church in a country where only 1 or 2 per cent are Christians. He can no longer say Mass, and he will be seen by many Catholics as an outcast.

His heresy is contained in a book, which is likely to become something of a mini-bestseller, called *On Mary and Human Liberation*. Father Balasuriya takes an unorthodox, somewhat feminist, view of Mary, presenting her as a strong guide, inspiration and helpmate to a revolutionary Christ, in contrast to the Church's traditional portrayal of her as the self-sacrificing mother of God. His sin is to doubt publicly several Catholic dogmas.

Many theologians, despite disagreeing with Balasuriya's theology, fear that his case marks a new departure in a campaign being waged against dissidents.

The man they face in the Vatican is Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the German Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) or, as it was known in medieval times, the Inquisition. His critics argue that the name may have changed but the act has not; that he is, like his notorious 15th century predecessor Thomas de Torquemada, conducting a reign of terror. Ironically, the controversy comes at a time when Pope John Paul II has ordered an inquiry into the centuries-old sins of the Inquisition.

Cardinal Ratzinger, the Pope's loyal lieutenant, may eschew the thumbscrew, but Father Balasuriya accuses him of acting, like his medieval counterparts, as judge, prosecutor and jury.

The theologian complains that he has not had the chance to face his accusers and argue his views; that, in fact, there has been no inquisition.

Cardinal Ratzinger said last month that a "trial" would only prolong the agony and come to the same conclusion as his office and the Pope, who, he said, had taken a close personal interest in the case.

The fear Cardinal Ratzinger inspires is palpable. Some years ago I tried to interview a priest in Bangkok about his explorations of Buddhist meditation. His reaction — "Who told you about me?" — bordered on panic. "You don't realise, Ratzinger can destroy you." The cardinal had not long before published a paper criticising Christians who dabbled in Buddhism.

Paranoia? Dr Leonardo Boff, a former Dominican priest, who resigned from the order in 1992, has reason to

think not. An exponent of liberation theology, he was "silenced", that is barred from teaching and writing, by the CDF. Now a university professor in Brazil, he has described the experience as like being caught by the security service of a South American military regime. "The Inquisition interrogates, hunts down and frames its suspects wherever they may be. It surrounds them with so many controls that it either ends up by psychologically destroying them or effectively condemning them."

In view of the Pope's continuing poor health, Cardinal Ratzinger, at the age of 70, and despite his professed wish to retire, may yet find himself as a stop-gap candidate wearing a white cassock and waving to the crowds in St Peter's Square after a puff of white smoke goes up.

The last priest to be excommunicated on grounds of heresy was the American Jesuit Leonard Feeney in 1953, who, in direct contrast to Father Balasuriya, believed that only Catholics will get to heaven. As Feeney lay on his deathbed in 1978, Pope Paul VI took pity and allowed him back in communion without requiring him to recant.

Father Balasuriya has just failed in an appeal against his penalty. He would be well advised not to hold his breath while waiting for mercy. The most famous victim of the Inquisition was Galileo, who in 1633 was put under house arrest until his death in 1642 for promoting the heretical view that the Earth went round the Sun and not vice-versa.

After due consideration, the Church formally conceded that he was right and apologised... in 1979.

● The author is a former editor of the *Catholic weekly*, *The Universe*.

You don't realise — Ratzinger can destroy you

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The political stars of the future are already telling ministers what to do. **Michael Gove**

Today's backroom kids — tomorrow's Cabinet ministers



If there were ever any doubt, the events of the past week prove that politics in Britain is about as secure as pyramid selling in Albania or computer programming in southern California. Nevertheless, there is no shortage of young men and women who will spend the next month sacrificing sleep and sanity for the sake of their party. They are the spin doctors in short trousers, the political stars of tomorrow who are already telling ministers what to do. They range from a second-generation immigrant to a teetotal Jewish intellectual who ran student social democracy — and that's just the Tories.

Spin doctor is, like Häagen-Dazs, an ugly American name for a jazzed-up version of an old product. Since Seneca churned out speeches for his masters in ancient Rome, politicians have relied on a support staff to feed them lines and fashion their images. The new name derives from baseball, where coaches teach the pitchers how to add "spin" to a ball. These gurus, who believe that when bowling it's good to torque, became known as "spin doctors".

In due course, the policy coaches who add a "spin" or interpretation when politicians play hardball became known as "spin doctors". No sooner did the name become common currency than there were more star spinners around than at a *Midtown* retrospective. Labour's media-manipulator, Peter Mandelson, and Margaret Thatcher's Svengali, Tim Bell, have be-

come almost household names. Now there is a new generation, itching to slip into their tasselled loafers.

The baby spin doctors, who lurk just off camera when the soapbox is set up, have as much riding on this election as the people bidding for high office. A well-placed brief, snappy suggestion for a soundbite or tactically adroit spray of *Silvikin* can save a frontbencher from disaster and set up the apprentice adviser for a gilded future. But although success can depend on a single intervention, a great deal is demanded.

Just before dawn: the young volunteers will be eagerly scanning the papers, straining

to catch Jim Naughtie's voice on *Today* and preparing "lines to take", which come from cuttings, not *Collyer's*. Both main parties have "war rooms", Labour's in Millbank Tower, the Tories in Smith Square. From today they operate 24 hours a day and the atmosphere combines the ops centre from *The Dambusters* with the dealing floor from *Wall Street*.

The politicians depend on an army of support staff to cope with the pressure of permanent electioneering. It is an army that spins on its stomach, with Labour's team enjoying access to a 24-hour privatised canteen. Alcohol is not available, but it isn't

banned. "It doesn't need to be," comments one irritable staffer, "there isn't time to spin and swallow simultaneously".

The reward for the backroom boys and girls is, however, more than just a warm ideological glow. Their predecessors have graduated to places in Parliament and the press. Politicians from Michael Portillo to Jack Straw cut their wisdom teeth as ministerial aides, as did journalists such as our own Matthew Parris and David Lipsey, the award-winning and anonymous *Economist* columnist.

The current generation of advisers includes several men and women already groomed, some perhaps too well-

groomed, for stardom. New Labour is closer to *GQ* than the Tories, whose tweed and anorak style is more *Country Life* meets *PC World*.

Derek Draper is the archetypal new Labour adolescent apparition, from the soles of his Patrick Cox shoes to a mind schooled in intrigue as a Manchester student. Once an assistant to Mandelson, he is less apprentice and more a once-slender cutting grown to rival the original plant. He has taken a leave of absence from the political consultancy Prima Europe, managed by Roger Liddle, who wrote *The Blair*

Revolution with Mandelson, to work in Millbank Tower. His rival for recognition as the most talented new Labour spin doctor under 30 — a title even more hotly contested than the Premiership — is Tony Blair's personal press officer, Tim Allan. A cropped haircut and clipped telephone manner can convey a hint of menace, but Allan is not naturally domineering in the mould of Mandelson or Alastair Campbell. Blair's press secretary, Nor is he a long-time intimate of the leader like the tight-lipped office Medusa Anji Hunter, head of Blair's private office. But Allan has won the respect of journalists for the always unadorned,

and always unattributable, way he reflects his master's voice. What unites Allan and Draper is a genuine understanding of what new Labour means. Having grown up with the collapse of Marxism and a loss of faith in the collective, they have learnt to imagine how progressive ideals might be secured using the grimy tools of the market. Many may pay lip-service to the Blair reforms as the price of power but Allan, Draper and many of their contemporaries are true believers.

There are older figures within Labour's support team, who may not be true believers, but who realise that progress depends on power and power

depends on Blair remaining in control. Typical of those who provide internal steel are the election campaign co-ordinator, Margaret McDonagh, and the director of organisation, David Gardner, who was head-hunted by Blair from the Public Policy Unit.

McDonagh and Gardner are, according to one Labour staffer, "The people who will win us the election after next". Their hands have been behind the recent "retirements" of MPs and the installation of talented loyalists as well as NEC reforms, which should ensure less internal turbulence for a Blair government.

The ability to end little local difficulties with a diktat from the centre is just what the Tories need. But even though they have as much control over their wayward fringe as Jarvis Cocker, the Tories do boast talent at the centre.

Their most prominent backroom briefer is Major's own spin matron, Sheila Gunn, but the main Tory spin doctor is Charles Lewington. Although Lewington has a whiff of sulphur about him, it is probably due to nothing more than the cigars he smokes. He is, however, closely associated with Steve Hilton, the Saatchi adman who dreamt up the "demon eyes" poster. Hilton, the shaven-headed son of immigrant Hungarians who worked in Central Office in 1952, is now the lynchpin of the M & C Saatchi advertising campaign. Working with the account manager Marcus Peffer, Hilton is a home-grown James Carville, all energy and aggression to Peffer's smooth

PEOPLE ON THE RISE				
STEVE HILTON	DANNY FINKELSTEIN	TIM ALLAN	DAVID MILLIBAND	JANE BONHAM CARTER
<i>Tory linkman with ad agency M & C Saatchi, age 27</i> Is he as mean as he looks? Meaner than a two-bit dog. Although he can be as charming as Bob Hoskins in a BT ad, he treats Labour's attempts to trespass on Tory ground like Hoskins treated bad boys in <i>The Long Good Friday</i> . So an Essex man in miniature? More Sussex boy in braces. Scholarship boy at Christ's Hospital public school and New College, Oxford, he graduated to adland after thinking up slogans at Central Office, transforming a dull line on Kinnock's opposition to Tory Training and Enterprise Councils into "No TECs please, we're Labour."	<i>Tory Party director of research, age 24</i> Is he as brainy as he looks? Brainier. A politics nut with an intellect larger than Norfolk and twice as fertile, his views are centre right but his style is Will Lunn on E. Wired kind of guy, then? Not in that sense. He's a teetotal non-smoker, and his Coke addiction is restricted to cans of Diet straight from the fridge. So no traditionalist? No. Although this refugee from the SDP is a born-again Euro-sceptic and flagwaver, he is, with his graphs, market models and Fifth Avenue salesmanship, the very model of a Tory moderniser.	<i>Tony Blair's personal press officer, age 26</i> Seems like a nice boy. Don't you believe it. Bawls out bolshie hacks who don't take the leadership line with: "I've never seen such sloppy copy. How could you write such distorted drivel?" Sounds like scary spidee! Well... wizened correspondents have learnt to take such magisterial putdowns from a 26-year-old with a pinch of salt, but few deny he knows his master's mind. A sure bet for the 2020 Labour Cabinet? Unlikely. The former <i>A Week in Politics</i> researcher wants to make it in New York, not new Labour, and harbours ambitions of making a corporate fortune Stateside.	<i>Head of Blair's policy team, age 30</i> Not another bleeding Einstein? Einstein did not have David's intellectual range. From fiscal policy minutiae to adopting the cultural tropes of the football terrace, Milliband's your man. Anything he cannot do? Crack convincing jokes about Tony. He's a true believer, although being the son of a Marxist free-thinker and himself practically a college Commie, he is plus Blair-ite que Blair. But he comes a cropper... No evidence of it yet. Even enemies — there aren't many — want him in the Commons to boost the pool of talent others fear Tony can't afford to let him go.	<i>Liberal Democrat communications chief, age 34</i> Any relation to Helena? From the same great Liberal dynasty as the porcelain-skinned starlet and the Edwardian Prime Minister H. H. Asquith. So more at home at a cocktail party than a political party? Not at all. As a former producer on <i>Newsnight</i> and the editor of <i>A Week in Politics</i> who once stepped out with rough-diamond Scottish MP Charles Kennedy, she is as streetwise in SW1 as she is in demand for dinner in W1. Will that be enough to maintain Paddy's profile? If anyone can turn the Lib Dems from also-rans into a yellow peril for other parties, it will be her.

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■ VISUAL ART 1

Brussels pays tribute to the late Paul Delvaux with a massive retrospective of his surrealist paintings



■ VISUAL ART 2

In a new London show of his sculpture and graphics, Randy Klein proves that art can also be fun

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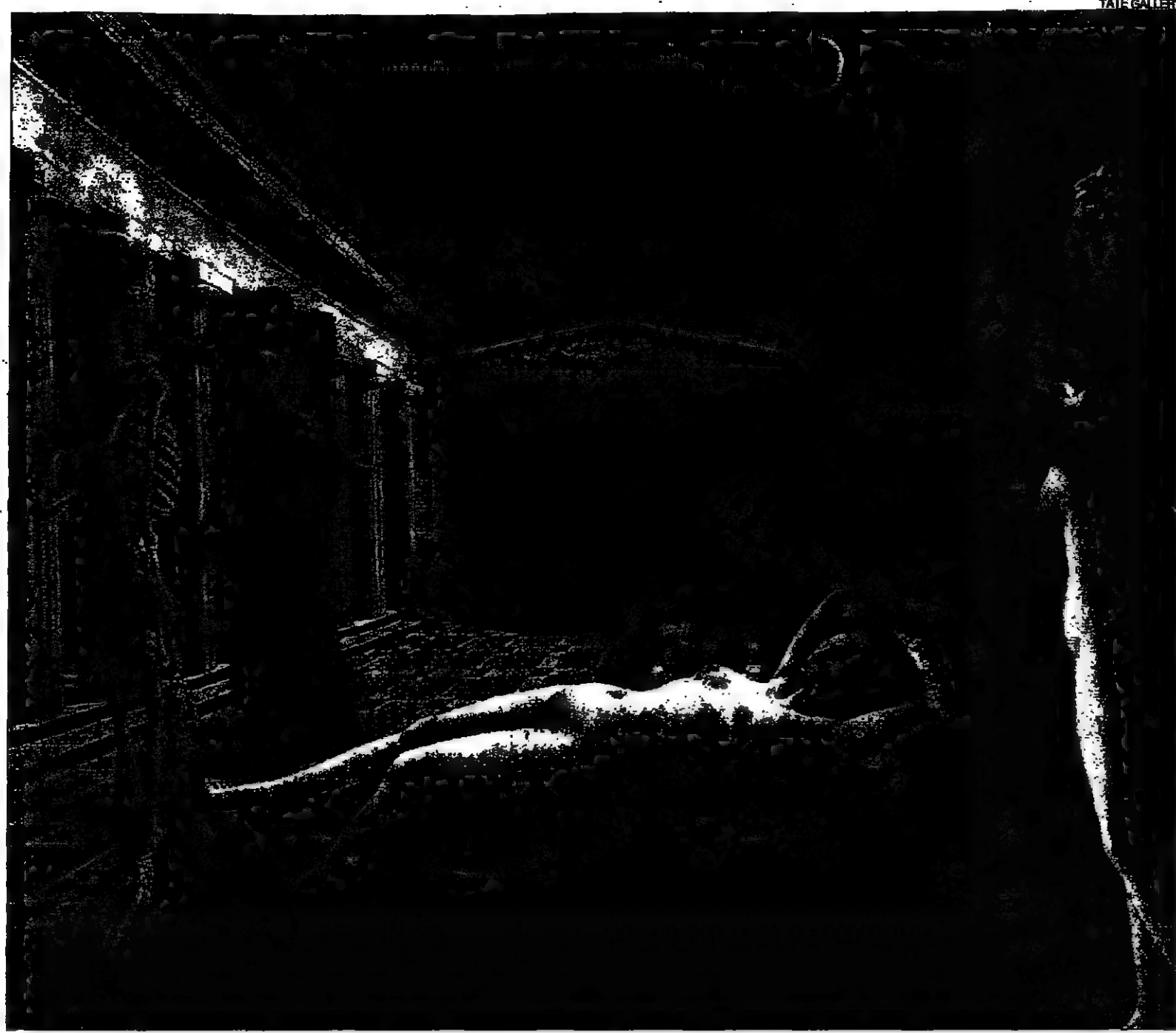
Death and the maidens

Richard Cork goes to Brussels for a retrospective of the grotesque world of Paul Delvaux

Around 1930, Paul Delvaux made the unsettling discovery that would transform his art for ever. On a visit to the Midi Fair in Brussels, he came upon a gruesome shed labelled "Dr Spitzner's Large Museum". In this hushed and macabre cabinet of curiosities, purportedly on display "for the education of the public", Delvaux was confronted by an array of anatomical abnormalities. Congenital deformities and the distressing results of syphilitic illness were exposed in windows and showcases. Skeletons loomed, and so did a mechanised wax figure of a Venus sleeping against a red velvet backdrop. Delvaux was spellbound. Lingered by the entrance, where the cashier seemed almost as much of a mannequin as the artificial figures elsewhere, he was particularly fascinated by a 19th-century painting of Dr Charcot conducting a clinical lesson with a woman in a trance. Whether or not he realised it then, Delvaux had hit on his central obsession as an artist. For the rest of his long career, he would return time and again to the sleeping Venus. And all the other women who throng his canvases seem to be held in a trance as dream-like as the one imprisoning Dr Charcot's patient.

Now, three years after his death, Delvaux's prolific and relentless output is surveyed in a colossal retrospective at the Royal Museums of Fine Art of Belgium. In the heart of the city where he made that momentous fairground discovery, his art is being celebrated as the work of a homegrown modernist master, second only to Magritte in national popularity. But the opening rooms reveal just how uncertain the young Delvaux felt about his identity as a painter.

To judge by a 1905 photograph taken in the Bois de la Cambre in Brussels, he had a comfortable bourgeois childhood. His mother and nanny stand behind him, guarding his baby brother. But Delvaux himself, whose father was a barrister at the Brussels Court of Appeal, stares at the camera with a solemn, introspective air. And the correctly dressed woman rearing above him take on the stiffness of the



Chamber of fears: *Sleeping Venus*, 1944, by Paul Delvaux demonstrates the artist's lifelong preoccupation with death and the female form

female figures dominating so many of his later canvases.

Precisely how Delvaux's imagination was formed at this period can only be guessed at. But we do know that the seven-year-old child was fascinated by the human skeletons in his school's biology laboratory. Jules Verne's *A Journey to the Centre of the Earth* captivated him three years later, and during his adolescence Homer's *Odyssey* prompted him to draw mythological scenes in his school notebooks.

All these diverse stimuli would eventually nourish his work. For the moment, though, he excluded them from the paintings produced in the 1920s. These unexceptional canvases, ranging from a sunlit forest scene to damp urban views where huddled working figures hint at his social conscience, are openly derivative of Impressionism and early Van Gogh. Their lack of individuality is striking in view of Delvaux's later single-mindedness. Only a steam-filled railway station and a melancholy view of the Rue des Sols hint at the images to come.

By the middle of the decade, more fanciful ideas enlivened his dour, dogged vision. A sickly-sweet *Family Portrait* looks oddly feverish, and the visionary strangeness of *Sailboats at Sea*, likewise painted in 1925, suggests that Delvaux

was already suspecting that his true bent lay in exploring fantastical images.

But he could not, as yet, define a style of his own. The influence of the Flemish Expressionists and the Walloon group Nerva meant that his large figure compositions of the late 1920s lacked rigour. The young girls in the forest look nakedly slumping, while their occasional encounters with men are merely coy. Delvaux's handling does not possess the exactitude he insisted on later.

Only in 1932 do we sense the emergence of a more urgent, focused priority. *Sleeping Venus I* may still look scrappy and unresolved, but the subject prophesies Delvaux's future direction with a new assurance. The reclining nude, clearly indebted to her wax counterpart in the Spitzner Museum, lies on a makeshift, red-striped mattress. Her languorous pose, so indebted to a long line of European Venuses from Giorgione to Ingres, makes her seem oblivious of the people ranged above. The cashier and downish musicians beyond confirm that Delvaux is here drawing on memories of his momentous encounter at the Midi Fair.

Contact with the Belgian Surrealists proved decisive at this stage. Resistant at first,

Delvaux soon succumbed to the mysterious, tantalising aura of Magritte's work. His influence, above all else, surely accounts for the sudden stylistic leap in the exhibition. The uncouth handling of *Sleeping Venus I* is put aside, and we are confronted by the stripped, austere certainty of *The Fire*, painted in 1935. It shows a woman in a dark

Delvaux equates women with a hunger for death

dress staring from a balcony towards a blazing house and could easily be illustrating the climactic scene in *Jane Eyre*.

If Delvaux had shown the woman's face, it would probably not have revealed anything other than a deadpan, wide-eyed vigilance. That, after all, is the overriding expression of the female figures who now begin to stand, walk and recline in his paintings. Magritte continues to exert a substantial influence, but the deserted classical piazzas favoured by de Chirico must

have helped to shape many of these images. As the 1930s proceed, however, his own peculiar preoccupations assert themselves as well.

Whether wearing fetishistic pink bows or frolicking like mermaids in a grey, northern sea, enigmatic women give his work a personal stamp at last. In moments of metamorphosis, their long tresses turn into cascading ivy. Sometimes bowler-hatted men, who appear to have strayed from Magritte's work, stride past these richly foliated goddesses. But the male gaze is averted, and the suspicion grows that Delvaux sees these women as figures to be avoided.

In a 1943 canvas called *The Spitzner Museum*, he finally equates them with a hunger for death. A bare-breasted figure advances in a state of ecstasy towards a waiting skeleton, whose hands appear ready to clasp her. Between them, a naked youth hovers as if unable to move.

The longer these paintings are scrutinised, the more Delvaux seems to be motivated by a morbid fear of women. These unapproachable figures, posed in classical cityscapes, seem to be waiting for the female figures who now begin to stand, walk and recline in his paintings. Magritte continues to exert a substantial influence, but the deserted classical piazzas favoured by de Chirico must

have helped to shape many of these images. As the 1930s proceed, however, his own peculiar preoccupations assert themselves as well.

Seen in quantities, their symbolism quickly grows tiresome. But when Delvaux relegated the skeleton to the side of a monumental canvas called *Sleeping Venus* in 1944, the outcome was more impressive. The centre of the composition is taken up with the most seductive of his deities. Recumbent on an antique couch and illuminated by the moon, she is unaware of the gesticulating women around her. The silent architecture of a Roman city encloses their protesting figures, impassively. And the solitary clothed woman seems to acknowledge the presence of the skeleton, who advances towards Venus's defenceless, even expectant body.

Delvaux never painted better than in 1944, and everything in the subsequent sections of the Brussels show is an anti-climax. Apart from a monotonous partiality for trains, he never strayed from his favoured formula. Having defined his frozen and melancholy world with the help of Dr Spitzner's house of horrors, he trapped himself inside it and never broke free.

Paul Delvaux is at the Royal Museums of Fine Art in Brussels until July 27 (closed Mondays)

ABOUT ten years ago, Francis Kyle had a considerable success by pointing his regular artists in the direction of the Ridgeway, said to be "Europe's oldest road". Now he has done the same with the Saxon shore of Kent and East Anglia: 14 painters from Britain and America were encouraged to respond, each in his or her own way, to this very distinctive region of England. The result, as might be expected, is richly diverse, but at the same time unified by the large skies and extraordinary light of the area. The points of view vary from Julian Hall's apparent orbiting far above Ravenshoe Bay to Barry Kitchin's minute close-ups of Botsman and low-growing coast plants. Alan Kingsbury is unique among the artists in his primary concern with people, though always people related intimately to their local context. Pure landscape ranges from Jonathan Briggs's almost photographically realistic coastal views to Gerry Keon's exquisite abstractions of mud and sand at sunset. Hugh Buchanan's intricately layered collage-paintings apply his obsession with history to such unlikely subjects as Sizewell and Dungeness.

Francis Kyle, Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, W1 (0171-699 6870), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-5pm, until April 10

LOOKING at a lot of the art on display in London today, one begins to feel that "charm" is the dirtiest word one could possibly apply to a painting. The best corrective might well be the Crane Kalman Gallery's Mary Newcomb retrospective. Newcomb is 75 this year, self-

taught and a country-dweller. She has painted mainly what she has seen around her: animals, plants, ordinary people on the farm or at the seaside. Her work is delicately coloured, and often touched by a delightfully pawky, unsentimental humour. She could be dismissed as naïve, but if so it is the naïveté of genuine innocence. The associations that spring to mind are the chic and stylish simplicity of St Ives in the 1930s.

Crane Kalman, Gallery, 178 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-584 7566), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm (Sat 4pm), until April 19

IF ART can be charming without forfeiting its claims to seriousness, there is certainly no reason why it should not also be fun. That, at least, is the view of Randy Klein, a disarmingly jolly artist of American origin now working between Britain and Italy. His show of sculpture and graphics at the Accademia Italiana and European Academy is arranged almost like a ride in Disneyland, moving us from Dante through Ovid and classical myth reinterpreted in modern terms, and on to the concrete jungle of today's cities and into closeup on a day in the supermarket, which can be regarded as either Inferno or Paradiso. The same forms recur, but the invention is so ebullient that everyone will notice and no one will care.

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BACH'S ST JOHN PASSION

Reviewed by George Pratt

HEARING a Passion in Bach's own time, an elderly noble widow exclaimed: "God save us, my children! It's just as if we were at a comic opera." The Passion is indeed operatic—a cast of characters including the chorus as a raging mob, arias to reflect on the action, the action described in the Evangelist's recitative.

Rogers Covey-Crump with Parrott (VCD 545096-2) sings eloquently, while David Thomas is an aptly human Jesus. Other strongly expressive Evangelists include Ian Honeyman with Dombrecht (new this month from Vanguard Classics) and Ian Partridge with Christophers (CHAN 0507/8), excellent if you prefer arm's-length drama, the sound rather distant. Clebury with the Choir of King's College, Cambridge (Columus Classics) moderates a glorious acoustic with close soloists and distant choir—a conductor's perspective. Deca preserves an early recording, Britten, with Pears as Evangelist and Wandsworth School Boys' Choir—the only performance in English.

The crowd choruses range from the vast and turgid (Karl

Forster in 1962) to a mere eight crisp voices—the Scholars Baroque Ensemble on budget Naxos. Most virtuosos are Koopman's Nederlandse Bachvereniging, while Gardiner integrates the Monteverdi Choir into the narrative with breathtaking effect. In chorales, both of these only stretch the pulse at phrase-endings, to create breathing-spaces. Bach was supremely sensitive to colour: no two arias are scored alike, a strong argument for period instruments—and against Rilling (Hänssler). He, though, provides a third CD with spoken commentary in charmingly accented English.

Koopman (Erato 4509 94675-2) is irresponsibly awful, ready to take a risk. But for the library, implying repeated listenings, I return to Gardiner (Archiv 419 324-2 £29.99). His forces are virtually faultless.

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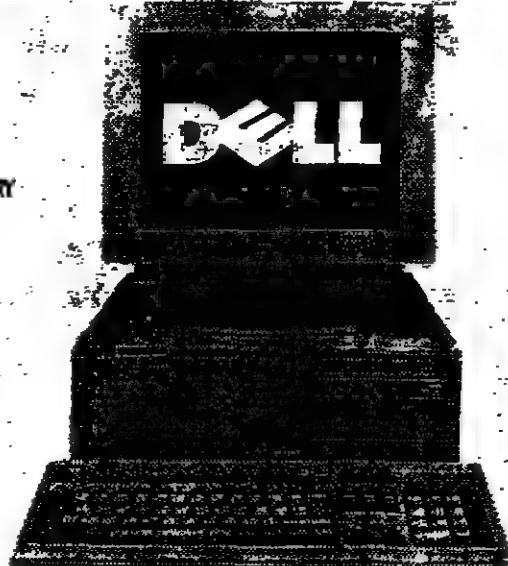
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**John Godber's
latest comedy,
Shakers Restirred,
hits Cheltenham**



LONDON

CHAMBERLAINS AND CHOCOLATE. An evening's fun, featuring a big lady league in the stage version of the award-winning comic play by Anthony Minghella. *Minghella, 902 King's Road, SW5 (071-8531 3878).* Previews tonight and tomorrow, from Opéra Theatre.

LADY WILKESHIRE'S FAN. Sirrah Murray's production of Wilde down from Manchester. Dabne Drake plays the wretched wife, Robert Wilson the various roles without a flourish. *Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-480 8500).* Opens tonight, 7pm then Mon-Sat, 8pm; Tue-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 5pm. Until May 31.

TRAVELLING OPERA. Peter Knight's acclaimed company performs *La Traviata* (tonight and Saturday) and *Dion* (Monday Thursday and Friday). Tomorrow evening, Koppel presents *All You Ever Wanted to Know About Opera*, introducing his audience with slides and notes from the board-level seats. *Richmond, The Green, Richmond (011-840 0088).* Tonight-Sat, 7.45pm. Until end of April.

ELEPHWRE

CHELSEHAMM. The dark secret, and the light past, told in candlelit wonder in the latest comedy in Shinkai Filmworks. The latest comedy from John Goodber

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Macoy

and date Thornton, the team responsible for *Bourgeois and me*, recently *Gone with Time*; as performed by an exciting new company the Baggage Factory.

This Other Space, Bayswater Regent Street (012-62 52733) Tonight-Sat, 8pm

LEEDS English Shakespeare Company presents a magical production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Directed and designed by Phelim McDermott and Julian Crouch. *Grange, 46 New Bridge, 0113-5245 9251* Tonight-Sat 7.30pm mat Sat 2.30pm (no post tomorrow)

OXFORD Welsh National Opera makes the first of two visits to the Apollo this season. Tickets are at demand for Carmen (tonight and Friday), Rigoletto (Carmen and Saturday) and Piprotte or Taisade (Thursday). *Opera returns on July 6 with Simon Boccanegra, The Barber of Seville and from the House of the Dead.* *Apollo, George Street (0185 245444)* Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm

STIRLING Odessa Stage Company presents a witty anniversary touring production of My Mother Said I Never Should. Charlotte Keating's modern comedy spans a period of 80 years contrasting the lives of old women in the same family to reveal the secrets and myths handed down from one generation to another. Directed by David Hetherington. *Stirling Arts Centre, University of Stirling (01786 461081).* Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. Next at Manchester Library City Centre, 7.10pm, Apr 29 & Fri, Apr 30, 7.10pm. Audience members (01242 525759). April 15-19

LONDON GALERIES

Ritzy Museums: Ancient Faces. Murray Potbury from Roman Egypt (011-636 1958) Christopher Hull Zee Benbow. Foreign Paintings (011-235 0550) European Academy Accademia Italiana José Maia (011-235 0001) London International Gallery of Children's Art Festival of Science: Coloured Genes: Through Chances & Eyes (011-431 1200) **Pindarion:** Gary Evans (011-432 229) **Pratt:** Gary Evans (011-432 229) Williams: Andy Armes (011-436 5533) **Royal Over-Seas League:** Julie Philip (011-436 1141) **Sutton:** Gary Evans (011-424 8318) **V & A:** The Cutting Edge: Fifty Years of Fashion (011-739 0444) Williams: Richard Whiffles (011-732 7658)

A case of less is more: in bed with the Manic Street Preachers, minus Richey Edwards

seguing into the Manics' proto-punk missive.

Visually the band are as eye-catching as a safety pin through the nose. Singer James Dean Bradfield swings wildly around the stage on one leg, somehow managing to extract note-perfect those great riffs from his guitar in the process.

Meanwhile, bassist Nicky Wire, resplendent in a transponers' raincoat and exotic shades, nonchalantly gets down on his knees with the air of someone who finds the task of having to stand up and play an instrument too much of a struggle. He's a star for sure.

There is a brief acoustic interlude by Bradfield but the show ends with the band (which includes a keyboard player) in full swing, not bothering to observe the protocol of the encore but instead whistling uninterrupted through *Everything Must Go. A Design for Life and You Love Us*.

After that, who could ask for anything more?

NICK KELLY

THEATRE GUIDE

■ AMERICAN BUFFALO: Douglas Hensley. Neil Stuke and Nicholas Woodcock play the three zombie crooks in David Mamet's gnashing drama. Great dialogue. Lapsing Foster. **50 cents.**
Young Vic. 56 Theat St. SE1 711-9229 (Mon-Sat, 7:30pm, mat. Wed, 2:30pm). Until April 5

■ ATTEMPTS ON HER LIFE: Further straggling acts of the theatre for Tim Albery's antiseptic staging of a new Martin Crimp play, a mosaic of scenes, building into a post-modernist portrait of a mass murderer.
10 p.m.
Rivers Court Cinema and Stage, Antiochness, West Street, WC1 (011-365 5000). Mon-Sat, 7:45pm, mat. Wed, 2:30pm. Until April 5

■ CHIMP CHIMP EARLY: Kenneth Williams. Carl Johnson, Jonathan Davies, et al. cast as 15 Peter Corg's new play, set on a Welsh housing estate in the 1980s.
Heddon (Colindale), South Bank, SE1 (011-368 2262). Tonight and tomorrow, 7:30pm; mat. Wed, 2:30pm. In rep.

■ THE COMIC MYSTERIES: John Burt Foster. A collaboration of writers of Dan Fo's *Micro Bio* and *New Testament* tales delivered in commedia dell'arte style.
Globe Theatre, Rooms 146, SE10 110 (0181 7755). Mon-Sat, 7:45pm, mat. Wed (Apr 15) and Sat, 2:30pm.

■ JEREMY KINGSLEY'S REASSESSMENT OF THEATRE SHOWING IN LONDON

■ House full, returns only
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■ Seats at all prices

combing thespians involved by three guest-comers and their temple. **5 p.m.**
Lynette Theatre Studio, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Sat, 4:30pm

■ THE GENERAL FROM AMERICA: Jonathan Ross. Ross and Peter Dinklage play Arnold and Washington, leading a line cast in Richard Nelson's play, concocted with treachery but only faintly supping molasses.
P.R. Barbican Centre, EC2 (011-638 8881). Tonight-Sat, 7:15pm; mat. Thurs and Sat, 5pm. In rep. Until April 5

■ THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES: Peter Bowles. Both touching and comic, it may be a cliché, but this play is excellent as its flicker-fingered star Peter Hall directs.
Theatre Royal, German Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Wed, 5pm, and Sat, 5pm.

■ SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE: Subliminal

learn, responsible for Spanish Dog House, responsible for Hound Dog, **8 p.m.**
Jazzmen of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (011-368 5987). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Thurs and Sat, 5pm.

■ SUMMER BEGINS: The Four Corner. Season continues with David Bondie's sharp comedy, now in **8 p.m.**
Burling E15, at the end of the Ladbroke square. Directed by Jonathan Lloyd, who directed *Edmond*'s excellent **8 p.m.**
Donner, Whitehall, Earlham Street, WC2 (011-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Thurs and Sat, 4pm. Until April 5

■ WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF MADNESS: Mae Jones and Edward Pollock in Lewis Carroll's 19th-century comedy but they heady dreams are a bit obvious, somewhat.
Vauxhall, Strand, WC2 (011-365 5987). Mon-Sat, 7:45pm; mat. Thurs and Sat, 5pm.

LONG RUNNERS

■ Buddy: Stand (011-7480 8800). Mon-Sat, New London (011-7408 0072).

■ Grease: Cambridge (0171-494 5080). **■ An Inspector Calls** (0171-494 5080). **■ Jesus Christ Superstar** (0171-7455 1807). **■ Oliver!** (0171-494 5420). **■ The Phantom of the Opera** (0171-494 5080). **■ Sunset Boulevard** (0171-494 5420). **■ The Woman in White** (0171-494 5080).

to the rhythmic interpretation of them),
how should we listen to them?

THE great 13th-century song collection, *Canigós de Santa Maria*, is so full of expression of the Marian devotion that it is estimated so much of the daily prayer and cultural life in the Middle Ages. The new London Consort programme, *Selected Miracles of Mary* matched the selection of canigós with settings from the *Miracles de Notre-Dame* by the 15th-century Gaucier de Coincy (d.1233).

Seven centuries on, this music can still please the listener. The melodies are secular in origin and style, many of the songs being sacred contralfacta of existing tunes. But given that devotion to the Virgin plays such a small part in modern life, and given that nothing that survives more than the texts and melodies of liturgical songs survive (with much ambiguity

The NLC presented carefully thought-out, highly polished interpretations, with a small chorus for the refrain and solo voices (here soprano Julia Gooding and bass Simon Grant) for the verses, accompanied by medieval fiddle, lute, gittern, recorder, symphony and percussion. The overall effect is rich and colourful. The 'improvised' instrumental preludes, interludes and postludes were dispatched with technical flair and imagination: particularly compelling on this occasion were Tom Flitcane's extended lute soliloquies.

It would be fascinating to know how the group and its director Philip Pickens reached their decision as to who plays what and when. There is no doubt that their colourful arrangements and lively rhythmic drive make for a compelling musical experience, but the linguistic barrier remains. If the rhymes of medieval Provençal or Galician-Portuguese can be appreciated, it is much harder to follow the meaning — even with translations.

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In William Hogarth's tercentenary year, Isabel Carlisle asks how the art-form he pioneered is faring in modern Britain

Oh dear, where can the satire be?

In the imaginary national performance table of great artists down the centuries, we British have tended to rate ourselves below average, while the Italians (with the Renaissance) and the French (with Impressionism) are at the top. It is a table that is no less potent for being unwritten. It was already present in the consciousness of the early 18th century. It still floats at the back of our minds today and adds an element of disbelief to the news that young British artists are enjoying a huge success... abroad.

Hogarth took the view that something had to be done about Britain's artistic inferiority complex, and launched a counter-attack. As the Grand Tourists bought up Italian Old Masters to decorate their country houses and had their portraits painted by Italian artists, Hogarth took it upon himself to found a British school of art. His new style of

painting rejected the classical mythology and landscapes of Italy, and borrowed the idea of low-life scenes from the Dutch. It took real people as its subject matter and real life as their setting.

As we know, he attacked the political corruption and social dissolution around him, and for his weapon he again rejected a foreign tradition, this time caricature (as practised by Leonardo da Vinci), and developed an entirely new language of visual satire. It has been admired and adapted by artists here and abroad ever since, as three new London exhibitions demonstrate.

Caricature is as ephemeral as the individuals whom it exaggerates in order to deflate. Satire, which

addresses the broader picture of human types and human failings, endures. This is one reason for Hogarth's ability to communicate across the centuries. Among the many exhibitions celebrating the tercentenary of Hogarth's birth this year is "The Rake's Progress: from Hogarth to Hockney" at Sir John Soane's Museum (until August 31). The depictions of latterday rakes by artists inspired by Hogarth's series of eight paintings underline Hogarth's influence, yet none of them has the acerbity and pathos of the originals.

The violent anger that Hogarth felt, the mission to open the eyes of his contemporaries to the society in which he and they lived, is the *sine qua non* of the successful

satirist. It surfaced in the reign of George III with Gillray, in Louis-Phillippe's France with Daumier, and again in Weimar Germany with George Grosz. An exhibition of Grosz's devastating visual critique of Berlin society and politics between the World Wars has just opened at the Royal Academy (until June 8).

Grosz was a great admirer of Hogarth. Prints by Hogarth, and Gillray, hung on the walls of Grosz's Berlin apartment (and then his home on Long Island after 1933, when he left Germany). However, it took the First World War to politicise Grosz. Shortly after his release from a military mental asylum in 1917, he started on a reprise of one of Hogarth's sub-

jects. "I am," he wrote, "painting a large picture of Hell — a *Gin Lane* of grotesque corpses and lunatics; there's a lot going on — Old Nick himself is riding on the slanting coffin through the picture out towards the left on the right a young man is throwing up, vomiting on the canvas all the beautiful illusions of youth... A teeming multitude of possessed human beasts."

Unlike Hogarth, Grosz was prosecuted for the content of his pictures. He aimed for an art that was "tough, brutal, transparent, an art that hurts". The portfolio of prints *Gott mit Uns*, attacking the military, was exhibited by Grosz at the First International Dada Fair and the lithographic plates were

subsequently confiscated. Fifty-two images from the *Ecce Homo* series were also banned by the authorities on account of their sexual explicitness.

By way of contrast, a small exhibition of work by 13 of our contemporary satirists — at the Royal Academy until May 6 — shows them to be more comfortable with humorous observation than with devastating dissection. No wonder politicians buy originals to hang in their loos. In the best sequences, such as Ralph Steadman's *Politicians' Legs* or Peter Brookes's *Nature Notes*, one is struck by the concentration on individuals rather than types; they deliberately distance the observer from the subject. The genius of

Hogarth's *Rake's Progress* or Grosz's *Ecce Homo* lay rather in presenting us with scenes in which we can imagine ourselves as the protagonist. It is the difference between caricature and satire.

Without Hogarth and Grosz, our idea of visual satire would be merely graphic illustration. These two artists took satire to new heights, and the fact that their chosen means of communication was art, and their aim was to educate through satire, meant that they addressed a huge combined audience of lovers of high art and devotees of prints (in Hogarth's time), pamphlets and journals (in Grosz's). Like most great art, theirs changed some lives, but not much else — certainly not the politics or morals of their societies. Its most profound impact may well have been on posterity. We cannot imagine Hanoverian London or Weimar Berlin without Hogarth and Grosz.

Spare the teacher, save the child

Vilifying teachers will not solve the problems in our schools

A pamphlet from the Social Affairs Unit will today denounce teachers: this time for turning children into "thought police" who challenge the "perfectly law-abiding" activities of their parents on environmental grounds. This is not an April Fool. Early comments suggest that the pamphlet's authors genuinely object to children being permitted to question the domestic or social status quo. If they criticise the car, read out this and go "Yule" at task furniture, then this is portrayed as a Bad Thing. We don't want teachers putting ideas in kids' heads, do we?

Well, I do. I want my children to come out of school full of awkward questions. I want them to breathe a bracing, argumentative air from outside the stale bubble of family and neighbourhood. If I disagree, I can always argue back. Admittedly, there are a few solid

Libby Purves

ideals I should like them to perch on after their flights of controversy, but there's not much value in the coming back if they never learn to fly in the first place. Better a good rousing family argument about unleaded petrol than a dull-eyed child who never doubts that Daddy Knows Best.

But never mind the eco-battlefield; maybe I am naïve, and the Social Affairs Unit is right to fear an uncontrollable plague of strapping little Swamps, tunnelling under all that L-reg drivers hold most dear. It is the wider educational question that torments me, and has done so for the past week of professional conferences and sweeping political promises from all sides to ban strikes, inaugurate sit-ins, sack teachers, ballot parents and issue Ofsted with death-ray guns.

This big question, too big for politics and too big for the vindictive scuffbags at the NUT, is what are teachers for? Peter Smith, of the more dignified Association of Teachers and Lecturers, came closest to asking it last week when he daringly said that teachers should be more than "curriculum shelf-stackers in competing educational Spar groceries".

It was, as this newspaper noted yesterday, a conciliatory speech: otherwise Mr Smith

might have added more similes. He could have said that teachers did not sign up to be stocktaking clerks, ticking off the measurable skills of their charges in neat little boxes at the Department for Education. Or that reception teachers are more than bank clerks, charged with counting and checking nursery vouchers for forgery by rubbing them (as recommended) between forefinger and thumb. He might even have ventured the dangerous theory that a head-teacher has better things to do than forever rewriting the school's mission statement with newer buzz-words and flattering the vanity of client parents.

He could have remarked that testing is all very well, but you don't fatten a pig by weighing it. Or that "parent power" is a confidence trick that causes nothing but false hopes, bad temper and bureaucratic chaos. It can't work: firstly for the obvious reason that good schools do not have elastic walls, and secondly because most of us use schools for

only a very short span of years, are passionately partisan about our own 24 children, and therefore make dangerous custodians of the welfare of other people's. Mr Major wants to let parents "trigger ballots to extend selection in their schools". For heaven's sake, why? So that a cabal of 1997 parents can pull up the ladder behind them? And why fuss about with all this stuff anyway, while the central question is never asked? What are schoolteachers for?

Until we decide, we can neither judge nor recruit them properly. Are they policemen or wardens, keeping the most disaffected and damaged children under control in groups larger than any policeman would expect to master? Are they sticking-plaster on the wounds of society, instilling moral virtue where everyone else has failed? If not, then, let us hope that Labour's leaders really mean it when they promise to increase referral units for difficult pupils. (But it will cost them, which is why so many such units were closed in the first place.)

Neither should teachers be what Mr Smith called "shelf-stackers" for the National Cur-



riculum. Admittedly, this new craze for uniformity was provoked by a dangerous drop in standards in some schools; but the sledgehammer fell on many perfectly sound nuts. Merely listening to what HM Inspectors of Schools have said over 30 years would have enabled the bad schools to be sorted out. Instead, the absurdly complicated National Curriculum of the 1980s was slapped down like a pastry-cutter on good and bad alike. While it may have improved the bad schools, it did incalculable harm to lots of good ones.

We have lost hundreds of teachers to frustration, early retirement, and plain stress. The Dearing reform simplified the curriculum, but it remains prescriptive, fiddly and bureaucratic. Real teachers expend a great deal of ingenuity working out how to fit real education into its crabbed little boxes. I took a Norfolk wherry the other day with a keen bunch of primary schoolchildren who asked at one stage "Is this National

Curriculum, Miss?" The teacher and I hastily assured them that it was geography (Norfolk Broads), history (authentic wherry), technology (the counterweighted mast) or English (talking about it), elementary physics (how the sail works) and PE. But Miss had not needed government edict to know that a wherry trip, under sail, to launch the new Broads Plan was a solid-gold learning experience. Yet trips out have been curtailed under recent "reforms"; fun has been frowned on in primary schools, as has provocative argument in secondaries. A group doing their Standard Assessment Tests at 14 once told me that every time you learn a new skill in the technical workshop you have to tick it off, "only while you're waiting to mark it, you forget what it was". Of course it isn't always that bad; but the reason it isn't is that teachers, miraculously, squeeze in the magic and the fun and the wonder between the ruled government lines.

Good teachers are magic. They always were. They open

doors to unsuspected glittering worlds. Ask any adult what they value from school and it will not be a certificate but a teacher, I straw-pollled and got: "My chemistry teacher, because what he really taught was the satisfaction of logical thought"; "My English teacher, because when I was 13 he made me believe my idea of King Lear might be right"; "My Maths teacher, who got sick of trying to make us get Pythagoras on a summer afternoon and took us down to the beach and drew it in the sand, and suddenly we got the point. Apparently he didn't have permission to take the minibus, but we all liked Maths after that. He was on our side."

Last week a documentary followed the work of Michel Thomas, a hero of the Resistance turned language teacher to the Hollywood stars. He was given a group of 17-year-old rejects from a school French department, and taught them for a week by his idiosyncratic method of throwing out desks and homework and holding their attention by

force of personality. By Friday they were happily constructing complex sentences with the prepositions in the right place, and laughing with triumph.

Mr Thomas told me later: "Learning is natural. All young creatures do it. Think how boys know all the details of football teams." Their usual teacher said that she had forgotten how much the actual mastering of a skill could satisfy children, because of the emphasis on "suitable" learning materials. A sense of excitement, of mastery, of co-operation and glee pervaded the experiment.

But where is the glee in our increasingly sour, competitive system? Michel Thomas throws out desks and tests for symbolic reasons, because he says tension and anxiety are the enemies of learning. But our education system is increasingly based on a worship of tension and anxiety (what else are tests and tables?), and on a synchronised striving for an arid, tightly defined status quo. Did we want it to be like this?

Don't forget the prosperous facts, says Woodrow Wyatt

The economy, cleverdicks

Labour's election campaigns used to be decent. This one is a malevolent manipulation of the scandal-loving media. The aim is to make Tony "sleaze" the principal issue. The "holier than thou" Christian moralist Mr Blair strikes above the fray, yet he failed to declare in the Commons Register of Interests his free return trip to America on Concorde; he will not comply with the code of practice on party funding; he will not publish the secret funds of his own office and he relies on trade union money for some 80 per cent of his party's cash.

In their folly, the Tories pour oil on the sleaze bonfire by not discarding Piers Merchant and Neil Hamilton. Both should go, because they are damaging the party's chances of remaining in office.

Cowardly Mr Blair is dodging the television debates with Mr Major that he once vociferously demanded. He is scared that details of the dismantling of vital parts of the trade union reforms in return for their silence until after the election will be exposed. He fears the spotlight turning to the jobbing implications of his pledge to join the EU social chapter. He wants all good news about Britain's surging economy and fast-rising prosperity to be buried.

Labour has run advertisements saying that Britain has slipped to 18th place in the phony world prosperity league, and Gordon Brown pontificates that "the true record of the last 16 to 17 years is one of our country falling further behind". Mr Blair frequently denounces our poor investment record.

But this is all refuted by Keith Marsden, who is an economics consultant to several UN agencies, a former operations adviser at the World Bank, and a senior economist in the International Labour Office. In his compelling booklet about Britain's economy seen from abroad, *Mirage or Mirage?*, the unimpeachable Mr Marsden writes that the evidence from the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the International Labour Office shows that Britain has outpaced most of its main rivals since 1979-80.

In the Group of Seven leading industrial nations (Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy and the

US), Britain has been consistently among the top three in the accepted 12 key indicators. Britain's investment rose at an average annual rate of 3.7 per cent, well above Germany, France and Italy, which were in the range 0.5-0.8. We were topped only by America and Japan, at 4.1 per cent. Moreover, the OECD reports that Britain was the only G7 country to raise the productivity of its capital in the business sector during the 1979-95 period. We led in the growth of capital and labour combined, with an increase of 1.5 per cent annually — three times higher than America and nearly four times faster than Germany, according to Marsden.

During the last Labour Government, Britain languished next to bottom place in productivity growth, with annual rates between -1 and 0.6 per cent. Every indicator examined demonstrates our triumphant success since. The growth in private consumption per head has grown by 2.9 per cent a year, the highest in the G7.

Labour talks of John Major's broken tax promises, but we are the only G7 country to reduce the effective tax burden since 1980. In 1996, taxes took 36.8p out of every pound of national income, nearly 3p less than in 1980. The government's take is now nearly 9p in the pound below that in Germany, 10p below Italy's and more than 13p below France's.

Keith Marsden remarks that a striking feature of our success is that the gains are shared among all, not just the richest. The shares of the poorest 20 per cent and the richest 20 per cent of households in total final income remained constant from 1978 to 1994. So both groups enjoy the 37 per cent recorded increase in real income per household over the period. This destroys Tony Blair's claim that "unless you are one of the favoured few at the top, you are worse off under the Tories".

Labour's denigration of our national performance is an insult to the enterprise and hard work of our people, Mr Marsden concludes. Rubbishing one's country is distinctly unattractive. As Mr Blair intends to change so much for the worse, the same economic disasters would follow a new Labour government as always haunted old Labour governments. "That nation which will not learn from the past," wrote Aristotle, "is doomed to repeat it."

Be seated

A PILOT of the Queen's Flight who was carpeted two years ago for allowing the Prince of Wales to take control of his aircraft and crash-land on the Island of Islay has taken his revenge.

Squadron Leader Graham Laurie took it on the nose when an official Ministry of Defence report blamed him for the incident in 1994. Now he has blabbed about the Windsors' behaviour aboard his aeroplane. Despite continuing to fly for No 32, the Royal Squadron, he alleges that members of Royal Family regularly

disregard safety regulations.

In an article for *RAF News* on the perils of being a royal pilot, Laurie says members of the Royal Family do not wear their seatbelts when they should. On his recent visit to the Ukraine with the Prince of Wales, he arrived in good time but was fearful of being delayed on the runway when he taxied in.

"You must never attempt to speed up" at this stage, he writes, "because, despite the 'fasten seat-belt' signs, as soon as the aircraft lands, if you are a member of the Royal Household, it would appear



to be mandatory to stand up." Laurie added that he took \$100,000 in new notes with him on the flight. "The officer in charge of accounts nearly had a heart attack... Alas, it is a fistful of US dollars that you need, or you do not get fuel or your flight plan processed."

Buckingham Palace has taken a dim view of his article, and Air Chief Marshall Sir Michael Graydon, the Chief of the Air Staff, has made it known that revelations about royal passengers cannot be tolerated.

● In one of the more plausible stunts this morning, the balloonist Richard Branson is offering Virgin Atlantic passengers the chance to celebrate the dawn of the millennium in space with him. An article outlining how to join the Virgin

Millennium Space Mission has been inserted into the airline's inflight magazine *Hot-Air*. Interested parties calling the freephone number at the end of the article will be met with Branson's voice saying "April Fool. This is a rather nasty Richard Branson. We cannot yet fly you to the moon."

Laundry lists

POLITICAL historians desperate for insights into Margaret Thatcher's mind will come empty away from the memoirs of Lord Peyton of Yeovil, the town's MBE from 1983. The former Transport Minister, whose autobiography, *Without Benefit of Laundry*, dwells at length on his days as a prisoner of war, devotes just a couple of paragraphs to her leadership.

Peyton, who is much prized in the Lords for his crusty humour, challenged Thatcher in 1975 for the Tory leadership and was the only member of her Shadow Cabinet not to become a minister.

Thatcher invited him to dinner just after her election triumph, and he told her of his bitterness. "I want you to know how hurt and angry I was and am at the way you have behaved to me," he said, before warning her that some of her

friends were unreliable. He finishes the anecdote with a tidy dismissal: "I have seen little or nothing of her since, and retain mixed impressions."

Ten to one

MEMBERS of the British Field Sports Society are so busy on their hobbyhounds about the right to ride to hounds that they seem to have forgotten how to count.

Last month, the society's chief ex-



"That is what I mean by a learning curve, Sims"

ecutive, Robin Hanbury-Tenison, stated that more than a million people had written to Tony Blair to lobby for hunting — far more than in any previous campaign. Others of his ilk claimed that Blair had received more than 500,000 pro-hunting cards.

But numerate and diligent sources acquainted with Mr Blair's office insist that the numbers don't tally. Just 43,020 cards have actually been received at the Leader of the Opposition's office, and the League Against Cruel Sports has notched up a small victory.

Striking back

LABOUR'S decision to abandon a £1 million negative advertising campaign, reported in yesterday's *Times*, and to pump instead for a positive message, has inspired one reader to call for the advertising standards of old.

He draws my attention to Labour's "New Umpire" poster from the 1929 election — the year after voting rights for men and women were equalised — in which a female umpire with the words "Woman Voter" on her scarf gives a flailing, pipe-smoking Baldwin run out by Labour's Ramsay MacDonald. The scene brings to mind the



Gentler campaign days

England of warm beer and idle summers which John Major so craves. But sleaze was nothing new even in those days, as shown by the account in John Lucas's *Budapest 1900* of a working visit by 20 or so Liberal MPs to Budapest in 1907. Apparently, after their final meeting, the MPs popped into the local brothel, leaving the new, reformist Hungarian government to pick up the tab.

P.H.S



SILENCE OVER EUROPE

Time to tell the electorate about the greatest issue of all

After the false starts, the distractions and the fringe-of-battle skirmishes, the campaign proper begins. This week the manifestos are published; politicians and press begin the familiar routine of daily morning press conferences and tours of marginal seats in battle buses. The question of sleaze may finally begin to give way to detailed debate about policy. Meanwhile the party leaders will continue to conspire to keep the biggest issue off the agenda.

We refer, of course, to Europe and, in particular, to the single currency. Whoever wins the election will have to decide within a matter of months whether to attempt to join EMU in 1999. Should the first entry wave go ahead at that time John Major cannot say what he would like to say — that a Tory administration would not enter the single currency in the next Parliament — because his deputy, Michael Heseltine, and his Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will not let him. Tony Blair is, if that is possible, even more opaque. He has already cited "formidable obstacles" to Britain's joining the first wave, but it is not clear from his pronouncements whether he is for or against the principle of joining later.

Sometimes, in an attempt to gain the pro-integration vote, Mr Blair seems to be saying that he thinks a single currency is desirable, necessary and inevitable; and that, if it goes ahead, Britain must be part of it. At other times, he rehearses the economic arguments that make a single currency an impossibility without huge transfers of money across borders — until, that is, the economies of Europe have converged so neatly that the Continent resembles a country in all but name.

The parties' equivocations about British membership of EMU are not the only worry. For, if Mr Blair is right about the economic absurdity of imposing a single currency on disparate member states (which he is), then he ought to be deliberating about how to stop this disastrous plan even if Britain remains outside it. For, according to his impeccable argument, the weaker states that join EMU are going to end up with

immovably high levels of unemployment unless the richer states are prepared to subsidise them to a far greater extent than they do or are ever likely to do.

Not only, therefore, is a single currency on the Continent likely to lead to slow growth and poor export markets for Britain. It could also create dangerous social dislocation in the weaker countries and taxpayer revolts in the stronger ones. A more effective recipe for the rise of nationalism and the break-up of the EU could hardly be devised.

So what is the new Prime Minister going to do about this? Britain holds the presidency of the EU in the first half of next year when the critical decisions about EMU have to be taken. There are signs all over the Continent, from France to Germany to Italy to the Netherlands, that politicians and voters have cold feet about the project. The nearer it comes, the harder are the facts. None of the prospective members wants to lose face by asking for an indefinite postponement. Britain, which has nothing to lose by doing so, could lead those nations that can see folly ahead and want to grasp this last chance to avoid it before it is too late.

Mr Major has lost most of his credibility in Europe through a series of misjudgments culminating in last summer's beef war. Mr Blair might be better placed. He is known not to share the visceral anti-European sentiments of many Tories. If he were to caution the other states on the dangers of EMU, he could not be misinterpreted as doing so merely to mollify his party. Unlike Mr Major, he is relatively free to speak his mind. But he has so far failed to do so.

This is unfair to voters: and it is also wrong for Europe. There is still the chance of building an alliance against this misguided lurch to a single currency. If Mr Blair really believes that constructive engagement is a possibility for Britain in Europe, then he should start talking about it now. To what end will he use this engagement? Both the British electorate and the EU member states deserve to know what the man who wants to be Prime Minister next month intends to do with his power.

SHAMEFUL ISOLATION

Boycotting Israel will not help the peace process

The meeting of the Arab League in Cairo has been portrayed as a victory for the radicals. In truth, it was a triumph for the reactionaries. Those forces, led by Syria, which have never been reconciled to the peace process exploited the present tense atmosphere in the region to ram through their preferred alternative. Those measures included the suspension of all normalisation efforts and the restoration of the economic boycott against Israel.

The stance taken by the 22 foreign ministers effectively turns back the clock to before the present peace process started with the Madrid conference of October, 1991. It ignores all the considerable progress that has been painstakingly made since that point. It wraps itself in the symbols of an era when the Arab world considered itself in permanent conflict with an Israeli state that had no right to exist within any borders.

In a curious inversion of language and logic, those states who pressed hardest for a renewed isolation of Israel claimed their intention was to place the peace process back on track. Syria's Foreign Minister, Farouq al-Shara, argued that the boycott call would "exert influence" on Israeli public opinion and therefore the Netanyahu Government. As public opinion is not a factor that receives much prominence in the regime of President Assad, Mr al-Shara might be forgiven for misinterpreting its likely impact in Israel. Threats and blackmail are more likely to rally opinion behind the Prime Minister than lead to a clamour for concessions.

The Arab League resolutions constituted an attack on the United States as well as Israel. The vote came after another mission

by the American mediator, Dennis Ross, had failed to produce a summit between Mr Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat. For his troubles, Mr Ross was denounced by Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political affairs department, as a "biased Zionist" whose trip had been deliberately designed to scupper the peace process. These were shameful comments that should be disowned by Mr Arafat.

The militant attitude adopted in Cairo is all the more unfortunate because there have been some signs of restored co-operation between Israel and the Palestine National Authority. The riots that have raged throughout the West Bank over the past week would have been much worse had it not been for the efforts of the Palestinian police. Mr Arafat has at least shown rhetorical restraint since the Tel Aviv suicide bombing. The admirable reaction from King Hussein of Jordan after one of his soldiers slaughtered seven Israeli school children has made a lasting and positive impression. The preconditions for a revival of dialogue may yet fall into place.

All that, though, is dependent on trust. If further terrorist outrages follow the Arab League meeting then the Netanyahu Government will regard the two events as directly connected and respond accordingly. The Cairo communiqué has signalled that many Arab states regard the peace process solely as a forum for the capitulation of the Israeli Government to their demands. Such an approach will only isolate those governments from the real benefits the entire Middle East would receive from a genuine peace settlement.

THE LAST TRAIN

May we never have to be nostalgic for BR

The last passenger train operated by British Rail, a night sleeper from Euston, is due to pull into Fort William at 10.45 this morning, taking to its Highland terminus almost 50 years of state stewardship of Britain's railway network. As the bands pipe in a new dawn for ScotRail, the last of the 25 franchises to pass into private hands, some across the country may quietly mourn the death of BR, that much mocked transport conglomerate that somehow, by the end of its troubled life, found a way into the nation's heart.

Despite the curled sandwiches, the stewed tea, the leaves on the line and the insanity of its trade unions, BR was never quite as bad as the satirists loved to insist. Indeed, albeit at colossal public cost, it can claim to have left the railways in better shape than it found them. When the British Transport Commission took control of the Big Four on January 1, 1948, it inherited a network that was almost bankrupt. Some 700,000 people and 8,000 horses worked on the railways, operating a fleet of 20,459 locomotives, many of them already museum pieces. The network covered 20,000 miles, almost twice its present size, and barely a town in Britain did not boast a station. The average railwayman earned £7 a week.

The network and workforce were drastically slimmed down. Modernisation,

launched in 1955 with a £1,200 million budget, foreshadowed the end of the days when there was time for an Agatha Christie, a chat with fellow passengers and a full dinner as the express pounded to Penzance. Night fell for steam when the last engine left Swindon works in 1960: the haunting chug was last heard eight years later.

Like the nation, however, BR rallied. InterCity was eventually so successful that it dispensed with all subsidies in 1988 and was copied across the Continent. The InterCity 125, after some queasy experiments with a failed tilting train, was followed by the 225. BR embraced new concepts: profit centres, sectorisation and market share.

By now there was nostalgia for the original British Railways: the regional liveries, clanking goods wagons, Edwardian transport hotels, morning tea in the old sleepers, ill-fitting uniforms and yes, even the surly porters, erratic timetables, grime, smoke and missed connections. Now the entire history of BR joins pre-nationalisation travel in nostalgic formaldehyde. Welcome, again, to the days of private companies. An even bigger welcome to a regulator to step in where services are cancelled, fares structures labyrinthine and through ticketing available to only the brave. BR, as your sleeper comes to a halt in Fort William, we do not want to miss you.

Conflict on law of medical consent

From Lord Ashbourne and Mr Gerard Wright, QC

Sir, Arrangements have been made for ambassadors to the Council of Europe to attend at Oviedo in Spain on April 4 and there sign, on behalf of their respective countries, a Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine. The convention has been drafted under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

Part of this convention is in direct conflict with a basic principle of our law. Our law does not permit any person unable to give a valid consent to be subjected to any medical procedure which does not have the potential to benefit directly the person subjected to it. We do not permit unconsenting people to be used as human guinea pigs.

However, Article 17(2) of the convention does permit medical procedures and research of this kind. The convention has never been debated in Parliament. It has never been the subject of scrutiny by a select committee. This convention will conflict with a basic human right which our law protects and respects. If HMG is still considering whether to adhere to it, we strongly urge that it should not do so — as, we believe, is the view, for example, of the German Government.

Yours faithfully,
ASHBOURNE,
GERARD WRIGHT
Alert (Against Legalised Euthanasia) — Research and Teaching,
27 Walpole Street, SW3,
March 19.

NHS aid to fight crime

From Professor Jonathan Shepherd

Sir, In response to the latest recorded crime figures, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, emphasised the importance of police community partnerships in fighting crime (report, March 18). Since recorded violence continues to increase and victims of violence need medical treatment he, or his successor, would do well to explore ways in which the NHS could contribute.

In the context of research published over the last ten years, which has highlighted the extent of unreported and unrecorded violence that leads to treatment, it is astonishing that this has not been done before.

Taking into account the ethical issues such an initiative would raise, access to victim support services could be increased, the injured could be given increased and timely opportunities to report offences and more offenders could be identified. Most importantly, perhaps, the medical community could contribute its substantial influence to the fight against violence, particularly from the victim's perspective. This influence has been instrumental in developing inter-agency child protection and the introduction of drink-drive and seat-belt legislation.

The burden on medical services of increasing violence is manifest now in terms of the need for staff protection. NHS reforms have also increased awareness of the financial burden imposed by injuries, to the extent that the right of the NHS to recoup medical costs from defendants is increasingly recognised. It is time these concerns were dealt with together, through a new criminal justice/health service partnership.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN SHEPHERD,
University of Wales
College of Medicine,
Department of Oral Surgery,
Medicine and Pathology,
Heath Park, Cardiff,
March 30.

Facilities for disabled

From Mr Peter Field

Sir, When President Clinton arrived in Helsinki (report and photograph, March 20) there seemed to be surprise in some media at the lack of facilities for those who use wheelchairs. I use a powered chair and would guess that only a small minority of London's public venues are accessible to me.

I recently attended an official function at a leading London hotel. My fellow wheelchair user and I had to be escorted into the ballroom via the laundry-room entrance at the rear. We could not enjoy the pre-lunch reception as it was up a short flight of stairs.

The occasion was an "equal opportunities" awards ceremony.

Yours sincerely,
PETER FIELD,
9 Underhill Close,
Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Visionary thinking

From Dr W. I. Pumphrey

Sir, In this age of almost incredible technical achievement, a well-intentioned millennium committee in Minehead has proposed a pier as a fitting legacy to future generations in the 21st century and beyond.

Surely there must be something more nostalgic that would merit consideration — a bicycle clip museum, perhaps, or a windmill?

Yours faithfully,
W. I. PUMPHREY,
Old Orchard, Trendle Lane,
Bicknoller, Taunton, Somerset.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Mandelson replies to Rees-Mogg

From Mr Peter Mandelson, MP for Hartlepool (Labour)

Sir, In his article, "The sleaze campaign discredits Labour too" (March 31), William Rees-Mogg scales new peaks in the history of unreason.

His overall "case" is that the press is concentrating on an anti-Tory sleaze campaign on two fronts, sex and cash for questions, because the Tories are losing on both fronts at the same time, it must be a single campaign because the Tories are suffering and Labour gaining. Labour must be promoting the campaign and I am personally responsible because I am seen as "the greatest spin doctor since Goebbels" and that "this sleaze campaign will inevitably be seen" as my "masterpiece".

Even Dr Goebbels would have concluded that if that was the best he could do he would be letting the black arts down.

What is Rees-Mogg's evidence in support of his "case"? He declares that "plainly" the sleaze campaign "has not been masterminded by Tory spin doctors" for the Tory party is the target. That leads him to question "is it, in fact, a Labour campaign?" He also asserts that "the newspapers that have carried the key stories support Labour", but then he says "there is no conspiracy between those newspapers". So the best he can do is assert that "the Labour Party is in continuous contact with all of these newspapers". To which, even if true, there is one response, so what?

Finally, he turns his searchlight on Scotland with the question "Can one

suppose that Labour had no prior knowledge that the Hirst and Stewart stories were going to be published?" The innuendo that Labour was informing the press is laughable. We had absolutely nothing to do with either of those two stories and have said nothing except to express sympathy for the individuals concerned.

Labour condemns cash for questions. Those responsible have brought confidence in the standards of public life to an all-time low. That is a legitimate election issue.

Another legitimate issue is why the Government chose not to give Sir Gordon Downey a deadline for his report which he had to meet to ensure publication before the general election.

Labour agrees with those Conservatives who believe that Mr Neil Hamilton, MP, should go now, along with other Tories in the same position.

Let me emphasise we have had nothing whatsoever to do with stories concerning the private lives of Tory MPs or officials. If Rees-Mogg has any evidence to the contrary, he should present it. In the meantime, it is insulting to portray newspapers as marionettes in a media show promoted by Labour. It is also, simply, not true.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MANDELSON
(Labour Election Campaign Manager),
John Smith House
150 Walworth Road, SE17,
March 31.

Response to proposed 'drugs czar'

From Mr Tim Rathbone, MP for Lewes (Conservative)

Sir, You are so right to question Tony Blair's plans for a "drugs czar" to lead the "war on drugs" (leading article, March 26). The idea and the phrases used are inappropriate to the solution of this considerable problem.

In the US the job of czar is almost entirely dedicated to squeezing funds out of Congress and gathering the necessary persuasive information to do so. In Britain that is being done by the Central Drugs Co-ordination Unit, established by John Major in May 1992, reporting to a Cabinet sub-committee chaired by the Lord President of the Council.

Previously, looser co-ordination took place within an inter-departmental ministerial group, started largely under pressure from the All-Party Drugs Misuse Group, ten years ago. There is nothing "belated" about co-ordination, as Tony Blair claims.

You suggest that a czarist presence is more likely to disrupt good works already going on than enhance their efficacy. I agree. Local Drug Action Teams (DATs) are only just getting going properly as the Home Office drugs initiative develops. Better health education in schools is only just beginning to be achieved with more and more teachers able to support it.

Practically every week there is another international agreement struck to improve intelligence sharing, to tackle production and trafficking and to make law enforcement generally more effective. Improved counselling and treatment facilities in prisons and elsewhere are being introduced. A czarist shake-up could destroy all this co-ordinated effort and antagonise the extensive voluntary work that is part of it.

All in all, Labour's drugs initiative must, I fear, be seen as a missed opportunity — a rather crude burnishing of its law and order attitudes.

Prison reports

From Mr Hugh Boulter

Sir, Sir Stephen Timmins's timely contribution, "Let the punishment suit the crime" (March 28), reminds us of the important part played by successful chief inspectors of prisons. However, for them to be effective their reports must be published in good time, and many Boards of Visitors are deeply concerned about the delays which are currently occurring.

The Prison Service released the reports on Wormwood Scrubs and Albany just before Parliament rose. However, many other reports remain unpublished, of which the most longstanding is that on Featherstone. The inspection took place in February 1996 and the report has languished in Prison Service Headquarters and the

Preserving archives

From the Chairman of the Society of Archivists

Sir, Professor Sir Graham Hills (letter, March 25) puzzles me: is he really advocating the destruction of many of our records?

One of the skills of an archivist is to preserve only those documents which will be valuable for historical research. Professor Hills can be assured that we destroy more material than we keep — probably more than many historians would wish.

Yours faithfully,
KATE THOMPSON,
Chairman,
Society of Archivists,
Information House,
20-24 Old Street, EC1,
March 27.

riding on the back of continued alarm about Britain's drugs problem.

Yours truly,
TIM RATHBONE
(Chairman, Parliamentary All-Party Drugs Misuse Group),
House of Commons,
March 26.

From the Chief Executive of the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse

Sir, Tony Blair is right to recognise the scale of the problems associated with drugs and their spread within local communities.

In announcing plans to appoint a "drugs czar" reporting to a Cabinet-level committee (report, March 25) he has responded to the need to strengthen long-term national planning at cross-departmental and inter-agency level. What will be critical will be the neutrality of this figurehead — and of the senior Cabinet minister to whom he or she reports — and their openness to new and radical measures.

There are three things a new government should do. First and foremost, it should realign public expenditure on tackling drugs towards an increased emphasis on education, prevention and treatment. These services are effective in reducing demand, yet their accessibility varies widely across the country and they command no more than one third of the current Government drug misuse budget.

Secondly, government should introduce measures allowing early intervention with high risk children and families. Thirdly, radical measures are needed to divert drug misusers out of the criminal justice system into treatment. This will lead to a reduction in drug-related crime and significantly reduce costs to the taxpayer.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER HOWARD, Chief Executive,
Standing Conference on Drug Abuse,
32-36 Loman Street, SE1,
March 25.

Home Office since the middle of last year.

At a time when the Prison Service is under great pressure, it is vitally important, if confidence is to be retained, that the public has speedy access to Sir David Ramsbotham's trenchant reports.

Whoever forms the next government should give an undertaking that reports will be published within ten weeks of the completion of the inspection.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH BOULTER
(Member, Boards of Visitors National Advisory Council),
c/o HM Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre,
Forbury Road,
Reading, Berkshire,
March 27.

Joy of housework

From Mrs Naomi Gould

Sir, Just who are these women, described in the article about the pleasures of housework (March 24), who so selflessly insist on cleaning their own homes?

Personally, I intend to go on creating employment for my deserving cleaning lady, thereby selflessly denying myself the joys of dusting, scrubbing and vacuum cleaning my house.

Yours faithfully,
NAOMI GOULD,
The Coppice,
22 Downs Road, Epsom, Surrey,
March 24.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Future standards for cinema and TV

From the General Secretary of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association

Sir, Brenda Maddox (Media and marketing, March 26) does well to highlight a very real problem of determining acceptable standards for the future in television and film offered for the nation's entertainment.

That the British Board of Film Classification certified *Crash* after taking legal advice (letters, March 21) points to a deficiency in the Obscene Publications Act, long ago identified by this association, and demonstrates, again, that the board's primary interest is the film industry rather than the public good.

The scenes described from *Cracker*, by any interpretation, fail to meet the statutory requirements on "good taste and decency" as set out in the Broadcasting Act 1990.

The truth is that standards have declined because those whom Parliament has appointed to regulate such matters have, in our opinion, failed in their duties.

TV programmes and films are not the result of blind chance: programme makers set out with deliberate intent and are shielded by the broadcasting authorities who appear not to act for the public good, according to their statutory duties, but for the narrow interests of those who seek to overthrow, incrementally, standards of decency in the name of art and freedom of expression.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN C. BEYER,
General Secretary,
National Viewers' and Listeners' Association,
All Saints House,
High Street, Colchester, Essex,
March 26.

From Mr Roy Martin

Sir, Mr Peter Noonan asserts in his letter that the public expects film censors to protect the mores and values of British society.

I am a member of that public when I visit the cinema and I do not expect censors to do any such thing. Furthermore, I do not regard our mores and values as so wonderful that they stand in need of protection — it is more important to question them.

I certainly don't wish to be "protected" in what I choose to see by a quango like the British Board of Film Classification.

Yours faithfully,
ROY MARTIN,
4/28 Helmsdale Close,
Reading, Berkshire,
March 22.

German map auction

From Dr G. L. Bolt

Sir, One German map of England came here in a most extraordinary way (letter, March 24) and hangs in a farmhouse not far from here, with glass on both sides of the frame.

My friend, the farmer, was a tank commander and one morning was handed a map for his part in the advance across Europe. The British field cartographers had used captured German papers, printing on the unused side when he turned the map over, my friend found his own farm and nearby village, clearly part of a planned invasion of East Anglia.

His emotions on seeing his own fields accurately drawn can hardly be imagined.

Yours faithfully,
G. L. BOLT,
11 Nelson Street,
King's Lynn, Norfolk,
March 24.

Soaking up science

From Mrs Anne Carman

Sir, The two scientists (report, March 27) who calculated their comparative wetness when walking or running to find shelter from the rain have failed to take account of an important consideration.

When confronted with a sudden downpour I have always immediately weighed the loss of personal dignity involved in a sudden scuffle for shelter against the kudos of the stiff upper lip and the refusal to acknowledge the inconvenience of a little dampness.

Furthermore, as a sturdy Scot, I have always taken issue with my Sassenach friends over their interpretation of any precipitation: what they call drizzle we call *haar*, what they call steady rain we call drizzle, and what they call a downpour we find "a wee bit damp".

Yours etc,
ANNE CARMAN,
7 Bedford Court,
Mowbray Road, SE19,
March 27.

From Mr Mycol Miller

Sir, I am sure we are all very grateful to the scientists who have proved it is better to run for shelter than to walk.

Perhaps they could now turn their attention to the vexing question of the apparent causal relationship between forgetting to take an umbrella and the likelihood of precipitation.

Yours faithfully,
MYCOL MILLER,
20 Hamlet Square, NW2,
March 27.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 31: The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Air Commodore the Hon. Timothy Elworthy to be Director of Travel and Her Majesty's Senior Air Equerry.

Birthdays today

Miss Brigitte Askonas FRIS, immunologist, 76; Mr George Baker, actor, 66; Mr Cyprian Davis, MP, 59; Mr David J. Davies, chairman and chief executive, Johnson Matthey, 57; the Rev Norman Drummond, Scottish Governor, BBC, and Chairman Broadcasting Council for Scotland, 75.

Mr Alex Falconer, MEP, 57; Professor R. Flood, Provost, London Guildhall University, 55; Sir Anthony Gill, former chairman and chief executive, Lucas Industries, 67; Mr David Gower, cricketer, 40; Sir Nicholas Henderson, diplomat, 76; the Earl of Chester, 77; Baroness McFadden of Llandaff, 71; Professor M.L. McGlashan, chemist, 73; Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, former High Court judge, 71; Mr John Murdoch, director, Courtald Gallery, 52.

Professor Sir Dimitri Obolensky, FBA, Russian and Balkan historian, 79; Mrs Marie Patterson, trade unionist, 63; Mr Charles H. Price, 11, American diplomat, 66.

Mr Steve Race, musician and broadcaster, 76; Dr R.C. Repp, Master, St Cross College, Oxford, 61; Miss Sheila Whitaker, former director, London Film Festival, 61; Mr Dafydd Wigley, MP, 54; Professor Sir Dillyn Williams, former president, Royal College of Pathologists, 68.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Harvey, physician, discoverer of the circulation of the blood, Folkestone, 1578; Prince Otto von Bismarck, Chancellor of Germany 1871-90, Schönhausen, 1815; Sir Aubrey King, pioneer of roadcraft, New Plymouth, New Zealand, 1838; Lon Chaney, actor, Colorado Springs, California, 1883; Dame Cicely Courtneidge, actress, Sydney, New South Wales, 1893.

DEATHS: Frances Molnar, dramatist, New York, 1952; Mrs Ernst Surralles, painter and sculptor, Paris, 1970; Marvin Cline, singer, shot by his father, Los Angeles, 1984.

The Territorial Army, a force of volunteer soldiers mainly for home defence, was formed in Britain, 1908.

The RAF was formed, absorbing the Royal Flying Corps, 1918. American forces landed in Okinawa, 1945.

The United States launched its first weather satellite, 1960.

Hong Kong Military Service Corps
The Hong Kong Military Service Corps disbanded yesterday. The corps was formed on September 1, 1962, but can trace its history further back, directly to the Hong Kong Chinese Training Unit, which was formed in 1945 and, less directly, to 1857 and the Canton Chinese Commissariat.

Tribes are accused of burying knowledge with bones

By NORMAN HANCOCK
ARCHAEOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

POLITICAL correctness in the treatment of ancient human remains is leading to a loss of scientific knowledge that would benefit humanity as a whole, say two anthropologists.

While the recent remains of identifiable individuals should be given back to relatives or descendants, more general claims by indigenous peoples to remains found in their territories are less compelling than the public interest, the New Zealand experts say.

Among the most striking recent cases have been the return by the Museum of Victoria, Australia, of the 10,000-year-old Kow Swamp bones, the largest collection of ancient remains from the continent, to Aboriginal activists, who are believed to have destroyed them; the repatriation by the Smithsonian Institution of 1,000 prehistoric skeletons and associated grave goods to Arctic Kodiak islanders; and the pressure in Israel by Orthodox Jews which has prohibited research on skeletal remains less than 5,000 years old.

Gareth Jones and Robyn Harris write in *Nature*: "Some believe that the destruction of ancient evidence by indigenous communities is no better than European cultural imperialism. Scientific freedom is compromised by repatriation, and archaeologists and anthropologists are not responsible for atrocities committed over a century ago, they add."

"Governments are often unwilling to support science when the contentious issue of reconciliation with indigenous peoples is involved," the two men say. These people "claim the sole right to determine how remains are to be treated, overriding the genuine interest of others in the material."

Where no identifiable links with a living person or group can be established, Dr Jones and Dr Harris suggest, "the remains should be available for reputable scientific investigation, as the findings are, in the broadest terms, applicable to all humanity. Consent has become of secondary importance, as no living being is in a position to provide consent."

Scientists who uncover prehistoric material should have control over it in the short term, they argue. Nevertheless, as human remains, they retain moral value: continuing analysis is "the only excuse for not reburial."

"What is most important is that the material is used to contribute to our understanding of human development and culture."

Amateur artists draw up a case for earning Times community award

Crafts weave their magic for disabled

By JOHN YOUNG

WHEN three cheery old men, members of a group called Rascals, gather at a public library in east London, it begins to sound like the start of a television sitcom. In fact they are the leading lights of a remarkable organisation that encourages elderly and disabled people to discover that painting, drawing and other forms of creative art can transform their lives.

Rascals — an acronym — was founded six years ago by Philip Joseph, 71, who was wounded in the Second World War while serving with the Royal Signals in Germany and who suffers from spinal damage. He worked in a film studio and as a signwriter before being invited to take classes at an art centre for disabled people.

This persuaded him that art could play a therapeutic role in relieving boredom and depression for a much bigger group of people. Rascals, which works on a shoestring, has nearly 300 members, ranging in age from early fifties to centenarians; it runs classes in painting, sketching, glass etching, copperwork, marquetry, pottery, needlework and calligraphy; and holds exhibitions in local halls, libraries and community centres.

"People come to me and say they can't draw," Mr Joseph, of Chadwell Heath, east London, said. "My answer is, 'I know you can't, because otherwise you can't be here'."



But I reckon anyone can be taught, provided they want to learn, and it gives them a sense of self-achievement and camaraderie."

Philip Rozelaar, 71, of Newbury Park, formerly worked as a tailor's cutter in Savile Row. He took up drawing two years ago with Mr Joseph's encouragement, after developing Parkinson's disease.

David Edwards, 58, of Hainault, is disabled by cancer and arthritis but is able to teach a marquetry class: "I took it up only after I became ill, but I wish I had done so years ago."

As each member becomes more accomplished, he or she is invited to teach newcomers. Friendships develop, exhibitions become social occasions and there are outings to the countryside where members can apply their talents to decorating village churches or a row of timbered cottages.

The group seeks a building for use as a permanent arts centre but its only income comes from subscriptions of



David Edwards, Phil Joseph and Phil Rozelaar with samples of Rascals' work

£500 and two small grants from Wimpey, the builders, and an unnamed charitable trust. Members have sold a few items of work but are not particularly interested in find-

ing customers. "They're not in this to make money but to find a new interest in life," Mr Joseph said.

Rascals (Restart) is among entries for the 1996 Commu-

ity Enterprise Awards organised by *Business in the Community* and sponsored by The Times and Deloitte & Touche. Winners will be announced in the next few weeks.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr B.J. Ely and Miss J.C.C. Tedder
The engagement is announced between Benedict, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Philip Ely, of Crawley, Winchester, Hampshire, and Julia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Tedder, of Oakenhill Hall, Basingham, Suffolk.

Mr K. Hann and Miss L.C. Loxton
The engagement is announced between Keith, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs W.H. Hann of Newcastle upon Tyne, and Louise Christine, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Rand Loxton, of Stapleton, Bristol.

Mr R.F.A. Pemberton and Miss H.R. Boleau

The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Antony Pemberton, of Haslingfield, Cambridge, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond Boleau, of Rampham, Dorset.

Mr A.E.M. Stratham and Miss L.J. Towler

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Mark Stratham, of Winton, Norfolk, and Lucy Jane, daughter of Mrs Wendy Towler and Mr Geoffrey Towler, of Brundall, Norfolk.

Church news

Appointments
Canon David Baxter, Vice-Provost and Rector of Wakefield Cathedral (Wakefield), to be appointed a Canon Emeritus of Wakefield Cathedral on his retirement.

The Rev David Bliss, Team Vicar, Aston-cum-Aughton, Widdowes, Todmorton and Uley, to be also Chaplain with Deaf People (Sheffield).

The Rev Michael Burley, Team Vicar, Drypool Team Min: to be Vicar, Sutton, St Michael (York).

The Rev Robert Charles, Vicar, Crossens (Liverpool), to be Vicar, Budleigh Salterton (Exeter).

The Rev Jeremy Clark, Curate, St Stephens, Shirley, Christ Church, New Zealand, to be Vicar, Upson/Overchurch (Chester).

The Rev Edwin Cockett, Priest-in-charge, St Paul, Harold Hill (Chelmsford).

The Rev Ted Cozens, Honorary Curate, Inningham: to be Chaplain to the Missions to Seamen at Avonmouth (Bristol).

The Rev Susan East, Rector, Upper Rye (York): to be Vicar, Macclesfield St Paul (Chester).

The Rev Pat Farquhar, Curate, St John of Jerusalem, W Christ Church, South Hackney, now also Vicar of St Paul's Cathedral.

The Rev Michael Rudge, Team Vicar, Amersfield, Darnall and Shipley (Derby), to be Team Vicar, St Erft, Goedereede Team Ministry (Tiel).

The Rev Bob Hollings, Curate, Christ Church, Compton, and Shipley (Derby), to be Team Vicar, St Erft, Goedereede Team Ministry (Tiel).

The Rev Jonathan Hutchinson, Vicar, Thornton, Wenhaston, Bramfield and Walsworth: to be Team Vicar, South West Ipswich Team Ministry, with special responsibility for St Peter's, Stoke Park (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Malcolm Johnson, Master of the House of the Royal Foundation of St Katharine: to be Bishop of London's Adviser for Pastoral Care and Counselling (London).

The Rev Christopher Kitchener, Vicar, St Mary, Gravesend: to be Vicar, St Mark, Biggin Hill (Rochester).

University news

Reading
Recent research grants and contracts include:

From the research council: Professor C.M. Williams (Food Science and Technology), £100,925 from the Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council for the metabolic effects of dietary N-3 PUF on the expression of lipase genes in adipose tissue.

Professor M. Bowker and Dr P. Hollins (Chemistry), £37,542 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council: structure activity relationships in surface reactions on metals and oxides.

Dr C. Kambarupati and Professor K. Warwick (Cybernetics), £27,143 from the EPSRC: non-linear control using recurrent neural networks.

Professor K. Warwick and Dr R.J. Mitchell (Cybernetics), £12,246 from the EPSRC: control and monitoring information display using intelligent systems.

Dr P.M. Riddell (Psychology), £20,370 from Medical Research Council: development of reciprocal linkages between Vergen and accommodation in human infants.

Mr R. Hunsman (Cybernetics), £18,338 from the Natural Environment Research Council: research, development and supply of infra-red filters for high resolution dynamic limb scanner.

From other bodies: Dr G.T. McKee (Computer Science), £35,520 from BT Networks and Systems; analogue, agents research.

Dr D.A. Keating (Cybernetics), £39,400 from BT Networks and Systems; PhD studentship.

Dr J. Vincent and Professor G. Jermolovs (Centre for Biomimetic Research), £40,000 from the Defence Research Agency: biomimetic systems for damage tolerance in wood.

Dr J.A.D. Anderson and Dr T. Tan (Computer Science), £80,120 from the DIT and Documentary Video Associates Ltd: teaching video scheme.

Professor M.J.C. Crabbe, Dr J. Gaining and Dr J. P. Brown (SAMS), £40,000 from the Defence Research Agency: project Page - programme in petrophysics.

Professor J.D. Schofield (Food Science and Technology), £49,814 from Home-Grown Cereals Authority: rapid assessment of wheat quality, including differentiation of "extra-strong" cultivars using the computerized two-grain direct drive microscope.

Professor P.J. Cooper (Psychology), £425,906 from South Thames NHS Executive: evaluation of preventative intervention for postnatal depression and associated difficulties in the mother-infant relationship.

the DIT for TCS programme. Dr R.J. Mitchell and Mr P.R. Minchin (Cybernetics) in collaboration with TCS Centre, £80,120 from DIT for TCS programme.

Mr A. Reynolds (Meteorology), £69,847 from the European Commission; Eurovent 1.

Dr M. Hilton (Physics), £32,400 from the European Commission; non-invasive measurements of aircraft engine exhaust emissions.

Professor C. McCann (Postgraduate Research Institute for Sedimentology), £35,708 from Heriot-Watt University: project Page - programme in petrophysics.

Professor J.D. Schofield (Food Science and Technology), £49,814 from Home-Grown Cereals Authority: rapid assessment of wheat quality, including differentiation of "extra-strong" cultivars using the computerized two-grain direct drive microscope.

Professor P.J. Cooper (Psychology), £425,906 from South Thames NHS Executive: evaluation of preventative intervention for postnatal depression and associated difficulties in the mother-infant relationship.

Professor C.J. Garforth (Agricultural Extension and Rural Development), £193,732 from the Overseas Development Administration: equity implications of reforms in the financing and delivery of agricultural extension services.

Mr G.F. Pearce (Cybernetics), £63,692 from Sun Microsystems Ltd; multi-disciplinary IT resourcing.

Dr A.S. Vaughan (Physics), £46,875 from the National Grid Co: di-electric breakdown in high performance polyethylene blends.

Dr A.S. Vaughan (Physics), £54,076 from the National Grid Co: polymeric materials with controlled conductivities for use in high voltage applications.

Dr A.S. Vaughan (Physics), £33,769 from the National Grid Co: characterization of polymeric surfaces using laser ablation techniques.

Dr C.M. Lister (Land Management and Development), £35,000 from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors: changes in the business space market and the impact on lease structures and property investments.

Latest wills

Hermine Magdalen Clutton-Brock, of Seaford, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,122,354 net.

She left £1,000 each to Sue Ryder Foundation, St Joseph's Hospice, Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, and R.N.I. (Research and Development) for Research into the Causes of Cancer.

Noella Mary Horwood, of Frimston, on Sea, Essex, left estate valued at £1,004,430 net.

She left £100,000 to the Tropical Cancer Research Fund.

Joseph Lewis, of Keinton Mandeville, Somerset, left estate valued at £2,401,661 net.

John William Emslie Rawle, of Boreham, Salisbury, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £1,691,339 net.

George Edward Tribe, of Basing, Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £2,040,005 net.

Irma Eleanor Levin, of London NW8, left estate valued at £1,594,873 net.

Gertrude May Lloyd, of London SW1, left estate valued at £8,261,753 net.

She left £500 to St Saviour's Church, London SW3, and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, £200 to the Moorfields Eye Hospital, £200 to the British Hospital for Animals, and £100 to the British Veterinary Society.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS

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HOUGHTON - On 27th March at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton to Gary and Georgina, a son, Christopher.

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DEATHS
ALDER</

ELLA MAILLART



various gurus had to say. On going to interview Nehru, she has much surprised him by her knowledge from his office brandishes her visiting card and extending his arms in welcome with the words "So you are the Ella Maillart!" Her books on India were published first in London, well before they appeared in French. At the end she returned to settle in Switzerland, though, with restless energy, she continued until around 80 to lead parties on lecture tours to some of her best-loved lands. She was an admirable and endearing lecturer, and her audience never minded if she occurred, as she invariably did. Most recently she went for the first time to something of the South Pacific, long her "dream ocean".

She lived out her last years in her mountain retreat, the chalet at Chandolin (1,936 metres), one of the highest villages in the Alps. While detesting cities with their concrete cement and traffic pollution, she had generally been persuaded to come down to Geneva for the worst of the winter. But this year she remained at Chandolin, the place where she had found "this profound peace".

She was in India for most of the Second World War, having reached it via Afghanistan by car in 1939, a journey she later described in *The Cruel Way*. In India, having at first been wrongly suspected of being a spy, she travelled and visited ashrams to hear what the

Interviewed by the Austrian Cultural Institute in New York two years ago, Spielmann expressed his hope that he would, as Verdi had done with *Falstaff* at a similarly great age, produce one last masterpiece. That never happened. But under the current renaissance in "easy listening" tunes, the Spielmann archive may yet prove to be a goldmine for singers.

an instructor in physics from 1938 to 1940, as an associate professor. In 1948 he became associate editor of the leading theoretical journal, *Physical Review*, and in 1949 was appointed to a full professorship in physics at Harvard.

He held his chair until retirement in 1960, and was the Senior Fellow of the Society of Fellows at Harvard University from 1950 to 1971.

Working with R.V. Pound and H.C. Purcell, Purcell and his colleagues made a resonance on December 15, 1945. They announced their observation simultaneously with that of nuclear induction by Felix Bloch and others at Stanford University. Purcell and Bloch received the joint award of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1952.

Purcell's research on radar also fuelled his interest in radio astronomy, and his detection of radiation from interstellar space at the hydrogen hyperfine frequency of 1421 MHz was another experiment worthy of a Nobel Prize; his research was of enormous value to radio astronomers attempting to map galaxies.

More speculatively, Purcell was always intrigued by the possibility of radio communication with other civilisations, if they existed, and by the question of what frequency the aliens might use; he was dismissive of space travel, however.

Purcell gave the Hailey Lecture in Oxford in 1983, and was elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society in 1989. He received honorary doctorates from Purdue University and Washington University in St Louis, and a National Medal of Science in 1979. He was the author of standard works on microwaves, electricity and magnetism.

Purcell died after a fall at his home in Cambridge Massachusetts. He is survived by his wife Beth (née Busser), and by their two sons.

and musical bars before the war. His father, an electrical engineer, encouraged Fritz to play the piano. Composition came easily to him, and one of his childhood efforts, *One Finger Melody*, became a big hit when recorded by Frank Sinatra in 1950. At 12, the precocious Spielmann was studying piano and composition under Joseph Marx at the Music Academy of Vienna.

When he left, his planned career as a concert pianist had to be sacrificed to the urgent need to make a living. He started playing the piano in nightclubs, sometimes his own compositions, sometimes George Gershwin's. Popular songs in Vienna in those days tended, in their grim humour, to reflect the prevailing economic and political instability. Spielmann's best-known contribution to this genre of composition was entitled *Warum spielt bei den Schinkenfleckerl allerweil das Fleisch Versteckerl?* — which

**THE TIMES.
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BRITISH ISLES.**

The offer to supply *The Times* at three-halfpence is freely available to anyone not only in England, but in every part of the British Isles.

Such difficulties as are being experienced in obtaining copies are due to the great demand which has been made during the past week on the newspaper. All risks of disappointment will be eliminated if definite orders are placed at shops or bookstalls.

It is not necessary to perform even the simple operation of registration in order to get *The Times* anywhere in the Isles now at three-halfpence.

Readers in other interests, however, are still urged to register, because they will then be entitled to privileges which are not open to unregistered purchasers.

One of the advantages reserved for them will be that they will receive free of charge in future certain famous supplements issued with *The Times* at intervals throughout the year.

As an example of what will be included among supplements that will be provided free to registered readers, we would mention the beautiful Princess Mary Supplement in colour

ON THIS DAY

April 1, 1922

The dynamic personality of Lord Northcliffe, the chief proprietor of The Times, can almost be felt, despite his failing health, in his announcement that the newspaper was once again to be on sale at 1½d

and photogravure, produced at very great cost on the day of the Royal wedding.

Registered readers can also telephone their urgent small advertisements to *The Times* Office. All that is necessary on the part of a reader to secure the privileges is to fill in the forms [printed in the paper].

The reduction in price will not involve any variation in the quality of the News Services of *The Times*. On the contrary, as a result of Lord Northcliffe's world tour, many new correspondents have been appointed in places in which hitherto no journal has ever been directly represented.

**CHILDREN AND
SUMMER-TIME.**

The Board of Education has issued a memorandum on the effect of the Summer Time Act on the health of school children. The views expressed have been reached after examining the opinions of 299 local authorities. Some 183 authorities, with an average attendance of 3,227,842 children, are definitely in favour of the Act. On the other hand, 80 authorities (1,000,429 children) consider it detrimental. No definite opinion was formed by 27 authorities (232,402 children) . . .

The Board draws the following conclusions:—

"The only disadvantage to children which in their opinion can be accepted as really following from the adoption of the Summer Time Act is that the Act may, and under present conditions often does, cause some aggravation of a really serious evil — namely, the widespread and injurious lack of sufficient sleep amongst school children. The Board are of opinion that this aggravation is relatively slight and can be usually avoided by reasonable domestic care. They would urge local education authorities and teachers to co-operate in trying by every possible means to enlist the intelligent sympathy of parents in securing for their children this indispensable element in healthy child life."

RUGBY LEAGUE: VAGANA TRY HAT-TRICK INSPIRES WARRINGTON TO REMARKABLE WIN OVER WIGAN

Cullen and Murphy pull off double act

Warrington Wolves 35
Wigan Warriors 24

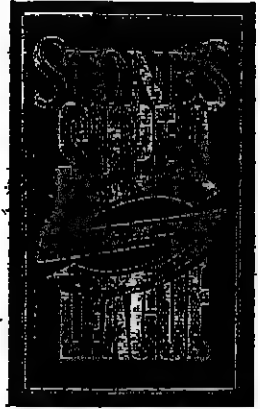
By Christopher Irvine

ALEX MURPHY has no intention of a full-time return to coaching at 57. For one thing, the nerves could not take it. Before an outstanding win by Warrington in an epic Super League encounter yesterday, he joked that it would be the shortest appointment in history. No wonder he was beaming afterwards.

Murphy, the club's football executive, and Paul Cullen, the assistant coach, took joint temporary charge of the coaching role 48 hours before, when John Dorahy resigned after four successive defeats. For all that Wigan had been beaten last Friday by St Helens, facing them had the look of unnecessary cruelty. It is amazing what a reminder of pride in performance can bring about and Wigan were soundly beaten, despite a late comeback.

The afternoon at Wilderspool was pure theatre. Murphy, who last coached Warrington 19 years ago, was his familiar, finger-jabbing self in the dug-out. He shook the hand of each of his players as they walked off at half-time, 22-4 ahead, before suffering the agonies of the home supporters as Wigan responded with three quick tries.

With five minutes left, Kelly Shelduff dropped a goal to calm nerves and, by the time Penny waltzed clear in the last minutes, Murphy was taking the plaques. The crowd rose at the end to him and Cullen, who took the key roles of



Results and cables 32

selecting and drilling the team.

Warrington hope to announce Dorahy's successor this week. Whoever takes over now knows that far from the hapless, disjointed outfit seen in three opening Super League defeats, Warrington have commitment and skillful individuals.

Cullen, who is injured, said: "It was a guts effort and honesty was written all the way through it." Murphy was content, for once, to take a back seat in the after-match press conference, but his personal philosophy about pride in a team jersey was writ large.

Of three tries by Nigel Vagana, one of several expensive foreign imports, who, until yesterday, had offered very little, Murphy said: "One or two players produced their form, like Vagana. I was proud of the players and especially of Paul Cullen. Until Saturday, remember, he was the Alliance coach."



Tatupu weaves his way through the shattered Wigan defence to score an impressive try for Warrington

It was Warrington's first home defeat of Wigan in a decade and the first time since the Dorahy reign at Central Park, in 1994, that Wigan had lost successive matches.

"Easter has been a disaster for us," Eric Hughes, Wigan's coach said. "We know we've got problems and that we have to rebuild."

Were Wigan to lose Andy Farrell for any length of time, they would be in serious trouble. The captain kept his head while around him others were losing theirs. Too many good players have gone, while inadequate or inexperienced

ones have taken their place. For Wigan to be a force this year.

Three of Wigan's five tries, including the first by Ellison, were created by kicks, an area Warrington must work on, but it was the remarkable composure at scrum half of John Duffy, 16, and the strong running of the pack, in which Tatupu and Sculthorpe were outstanding, that put down the foundations of a famous victory.

Vagana and Tatupu, in a couple of defence-splitting charges, scored direct from Wigan penalties. Vagana's

second was an 80-metre interception of a pass by Long, and when Murray picked up in an off-side position, Duffy's excellent pass searched out Shelduff for a try before the break.

Even the Warrington wolf mascot was looking more animated. Wigan were again their own worst enemies, as Radlinski failed to find touch with a simple kick and Vagana eluded Tait for his hat-trick. Roper's fifth goal gave Warrington an apparently unassailable 30-8 lead, until three Wigan tries in seven minutes by Murdoch, Ellison

and Radlinski reminded Murphy of the perils of being a coach. No one was happier than him to see Shelduff's dropped goal sail over and Penny's last-minute try.

SCORES: Warrington: Tries: Vagana (3), Tatupu, Shelduff, Penny, Goals: Roper (5), Ellison (2), A. Johnson, Murdoch, Radlinski. Wigan: Tries: Ellison (2), A. Johnson, Murdoch, Radlinski. Goals: Farrell (2). WARRINGTON WOLVES: I. Penny, R. Hatters, J. Roper, N. Vagana, M. Forster, K. Shelduff, J. Duffy, W. Murray, P. Hume, G. Chambers, T. Tatupu, G. Munn, P. Southgate, S. Sculthorpe, C. Roper, G. Davies, P. Wriggles, M. Carney. WIGAN WARRIORS: D. Murray, J. Robinson, A. Johnson, N. Radlinski, G. Ellison, B. Long, A. Smith, N. Cowie, M. Cassidy, J. O'Connor, S. Haughton, G. Tait, A. Farrell, S. Subbasteen, P. Johnson, C. Murdoch, M. Hall, S. Holmes. Referee: R. Smith (Cardiff).

Salford leave Paris to rue early loss of Evans

Salford Reds 27
Paris Saint-Germain 26

By a Correspondent

HAD David Campbell, the referee, been able to call up a video replay of the tackle that caused him to send off Evans, the Paris centre, after 15 minutes at The Willows yesterday, this result might well have been reversed. As it was, a dropped goal by Blakeley, ten minutes from time, enabled Salford to maintain their 100 per cent Super League record after they had been outscored by five tries to four.

Evans appeared to have

committed a dangerously high tackle on McAvoy, but a second viewing on the giant television screen suggested that it was nothing of the sort.

The referee was able to call for a video replay before making a decision on the legitimacy of Naylor's second-half "try" for Salford and it took eight replays to convince the official that the centre had not applied proper downward pressure after a 30-yard break.

Paris, who were convinced that the day would have been theirs with a full complement throughout, at least had a Frenchman on board to share in their sufferings: Didier Cabestany, albeit as a sub-

stitute, finally broke the Antipodean monopoly on the team's line-up after almost 3½ years. Until and even after Evans's dismissal, Paris swarmed all over Salford, showing up Rogers' limitations under the high

ball. A bad miss almost let in Bird and - minutes later - another saw Bergman scoot over.

With O'Donnell and Martin probing for openings, while Bergman in particular was

Eagles well beaten

ST HELENS, the Super League champions, gave a masterful first-half display in overwhelming Sheffield Eagles 32-12 yesterday. Alan Hunte, the centre, scored a hat-trick in the first 24 minutes, with Pinkney and Newlove also getting tries before half-time. Briers, the

scrum half deputising for Goulding, kicked four goals. Hull and Huddersfield both achieved victories away from home to remain joint-top of the first division, while Rochdale's heavy defeat at Hunslet allowed Carlisle to join them at the head of the second division.

quick to exploit, Paris shrugged off Evans's departure when the wing cut through to send Bird over. Robinson's second goal gave Paris a deserved 12-0 lead.

By half-time, though, Salford had taken charge. Naylor ended a Watson-inspired counter attack with a try and, when Rogers broke from deep inside his own half, Paris were stretched to breaking point on the left before Blakeley's floated pass allowed Naylor to put Salford ahead.

Three Blakeley goals gave Salford a two-point advantage, but further tries by Bird and Bergman - one after another Rogers gaffe - swung

the game back in Paris's favour. Then Rogers, the villain thus far, became a hero. He twice breached the Paris defence in a super-charged spell and, despite Bergman's late score for a worthy hat-trick, further Blakeley goals kept Salford just ahead.

SCORES: Salford: Tries: Rogers (3), Naylor, Bird, Goals: Bergman (3), Dropped goal: Blakeley. Paris: Tries: Evans (2), Briers (2), Goals: Robinson (2). SALFORD REDS: D. Rogers, F. Bird, S. Naylor, S. Naylor, N. McAvoy, S. Blakeley, I. Watson, A. Platt, P. Edwards, C. Eccles, P. Porter, M. Higgins, T. Setnam, Substitutes: J. Senechal, A. Burgess, P. Southern, E. Wainwright. PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN: N. Hunte, D. Bird, P. Evans, P. Bergman, A. Wall, J. Robinson, J. Martin, J. Sands, D. O'Donnell, T. Pridemore, W. Long, M. Hughes, T. Setnam, Substitutes: J. Taylor, D. Lomas, J. Dunne, D. Cabestany. Referee: D. Campbell (Widnes).

Leopards march to crown in double time

Nicholas Harling on how the bad boys of basketball reached maturity

The nature of the beast was to do things the hard way, so it was entirely appropriate that when the Leopards captured the Budweiser League championship on Sunday, they did so by making a stirring recovery in the London Arena. Not for nothing are the players coached by Billy Mims known as "The Comeback Kids", from 19 points adrift, they fought back to defeat Derby Storm and complete a league and National Cup double last September.

The surprise was that anyone should have been surprised, for this, after all, was the way that the team had performed all season, as

retained an aggressive, offensive style that brings an immediate retort from Mims when it is compared with American streetball.

"People who say that don't understand the finer points of basketball," he said, "but if people want to say it's streetball, it is still good enough to win two titles. We don't mind being known as the bad boys of English basketball. If people push us, we push back. If they talk trash, we talk back. But we're also the most talented and entertaining side."

Baker is the only player to have survived the wreckage of the defunct Guildford Kings, from which Ed Simons, the chairman of Allied Entertainment,

ments, and Harvey Goldsmith, his chief executive, founded the Leopards.

"Some sort of phoenix was raised," Simons said, "calling his meeting with the Spectacle Management Group, who

wanted a basketball team to play in the London Arena. "They said: 'Come and play here.'"

Still not fully convinced or, they will readily admit, that knowledge

about the sport, Simons and Goldsmith were then acquainted with Harry and Mike Wrubleski, the Australian owners of Birmingham Bulls. They walked into the office one day and started preaching the gospel of basketball. They were so infectious.

We finally understood what it would mean in terms of time and effort."

Simons is not prepared to divulge details of the financial package, only that "it was a lot of money, a significant investment. It was enough for me to devote a substantial part of my working day to make it work."

For the first two years, we wanted to learn the basics. As long as we were in a respectable position, were entertaining and starting to build an audience, I felt we could do a job. This year, we felt we could win a trophy. Winning two is a bonus."

Speculators will be admitted to the London Arena for £1 on Thursday, when the Leopards will receive the Budweiser League Trophy before their final League game against Hemel and Watford Royals.



Final table

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leopards	35	27	5	3	820	308	54
Birmingham	34	25	9	0	831	287	50
London	34	25	9	0	829	272	50
Chester	34	24	11	3	808	287	48
Sheffield	34	24	9	1	823	282	48
Manchester	34	20	14	2	826	283	40
Newcastle	34	20	15	1	819	302	40
Derby	34	14	21	3	808	310	28
Leicester	34	14	20	2	802	288	28
Thames Val	34	13	21	3	808	310	28
Wokingham	34	10	24	2	822	304	20
C Palace	34	8	21	2	816	316	10
Hemel and W	34	8	21	2	816	316	10

Waugh century great leveller

A BRILLIANT, unbeaten 115 from Mark Waugh led Australia to a seven-wicket victory over South Africa in Port Elizabeth yesterday in the second of seven one-day internationals. Waugh's tenth one-day century levelled the series after South Africa's equally emphatic six-wicket win on Saturday and gave Australia a boost after 13 defeats in their last 19 one-day matches.

Needing 222 to win, Waugh added 107 with his twin brother, Steve, who scored 50 not out, after Pat Symcox, the off-spinner, had taken two wickets in two balls. Waugh's innings came in 125 balls, with eight boundaries and three sixes. His brother's half-century came from 52 balls with five fours and a six.

Mark Taylor's slump continued with an innings of 17. The captain's dismissal, caught at slip, was almost a relief. Symcox then had Law caught at mid-wicket for 33 and Warne, put in at No. 4, leg-before first ball.

Taylor had put South Africa in on a green pitch under overcast skies and Dale, the Queensland fast bowler, in only his second game, reduced the home side to 16 for three in eight overs. He had Koen caught at second slip for a duck. Bacher caught at mid-off for three and then bowled Cullinan for a duck.

However, Kallis and Rhodes added 104 for the fourth wicket before Rhodes drove a catch to mid-on to depart for 57. Kallis and

Cronje, who scored 31, added another 61 for the fifth wicket, but both were bowled by Gillespie in the 45th over. Kallis's 82 came from 118 balls with five fours and a six. Kenya, the favourites, join Scotland, Denmark and Canada in one quarter-final group of the ICC Trophy tournament, which resumes in Kuala Lumpur today after a rest day. Bangladesh, Holland, Ireland and Hong Kong are in the second group.

PICTURES: Today: Group B: Kenya v Canada; Scotland v Denmark; Group F: Bangladesh v Hong Kong; Holland v Ireland; Tomorrow: Group E: Kenya v Denmark; Scotland v Canada; Group F: Bangladesh v Ireland; Holland v Hong Kong; Friday: Group E: Kenya v Scotland; Denmark v Canada; Group F: Bangladesh v Holland; Ireland v Hong Kong.

Scoreboard, page 32

TENNIS: AMERICANS NONPLUSSED BY AUSTRIAN'S UNEXPECTED TRIUMPH ON ALIEN SURFACE

Muster displays more than mere muscle

FROM ALAN RAMSAY
IN KEY BISCAYNE



Muster: determined

FOR a man who claims not to care what other people think, Thomas Muster has a happy knack of making people sit up and take notice of him. On Sunday, he overpowered Sergi Bruguera in the final of the Lipton Championships, the biggest tournament in the United States outside the US Open and the tournament the Americans like to think of as the fifth grand-slam event.

It was the Austrian's second hard-court title of the year and, given the strength of the field, an impressive result for a man some notable American players have disregarded as merely a clay-court pounder. Sure enough, when Muster

gets to grips with the European red stuff, he feels secure. Over the past two years, few have managed to beat him on clay - he has won 11 matches and lost just five - but there is more to Muster than that.

On Sunday, in temperatures of 106F, he simply wore Bruguera down. "I think it was just about taking the pain out of it," he said. "I was mentally better and he just went down and down. If you're down, you know how far you have to go to win the match and, in this heat, it's big." And therein lies the key to Muster - he refuses to be beaten.

Standing 5ft 11in in his socks, Muster is not the biggest of players on the circuit. Lacking a killer service and a

natural touch at the net, he knows that he lacks some of the instinctive gifts of his rivals. What Muster has in abundance, though, is determination. He is undoubtedly one of the fittest players, pushing himself every day because he knows that he has to in order to give himself a chance against the likes of Sampras or Becker. For this, he is dismissed as all muscle and no talent.

He has fought his way back from an injury that could have ended his career and has pushed himself to his physical limit on court, collapsing after a match and coming back to win again. For this he is dismissed as a machine. He grunts and curses, he argues and battles - and for this he

is dismissed as an animal on court.

When finally he became the world No. 1 last year, after winning 12 titles, all but one of them on clay, during the previous 12 months, the top American players shrugged their shoulders and suggested that Muster had never won much on any other surface, so why should he deserve the top ranking.

Off court, it seems, Muster can never win, but on court on Sunday, he made his point. "To have two European players playing this final on this American surface, it's great," he said. "I don't want to mention any names, but I saw a really long face out there today, really upset. That's the biggest justice. I like it."

Good year not guaranteed as leading tyre makers look to laurels



Panis: happy with tyres

The Brazilian Grand Prix here at Interlagos was accompanied by the smell of burning rubber - in one or two of the VIP enclosures. To the rivalry for the drivers' and constructors' championship titles is being added the tyre manufacturers' duel.

Goodyear, the traditional supplier to motor racing, is under pressure from Bridgestone, the Japanese parent company of Firestone. Despite outward appearances, the minority of teams using Bridgestone on Sunday were more satisfied, specifically regarding tyre performance, than their rivals.

Within minutes of Jacques Villeneuve having received the chequered flag in his

Williams-Renault, Goodyear had rushed out a public relations statement acclaiming its 346th Formula One win. Its complacency has clearly been rattled by the challenge this season from Bridgestone.

"First and second," the release trumpeted, Gerhard Berger's Benetton-Renault in second place also being Goodyear-shod - as were nine of the top ten and 13 of the 18 finishers. Although not entering Formula One until 1965, Goodyear's boast is to have won more races than all competitors combined since the championship began in 1950.

The evidence that began to emerge after the race was less convincing. Olivier Panis,

David Miller on the developing third duel for supremacy in Formula One

third in Alain Prost's Mugen-Honda, reported that the Bridgestone tyres were superlative. "They were brilliant," Panis said. "They maintained their grip steadily, even when the weight of the car decreased with the consumption of fuel. The wear was even, not like Goodyear, which decreases sharply."

Prost was himself supremely skilled in preserving wearing tyres to avoid pit changes late in a race. Panis and his colleague, Shinji Nakano, only made one stop, compared with two by all the leading teams on Goodyear

— Williams, Ferrari, Benetton and McLaren.

Also on Bridgestone was the Arrows team. Damon Hill, the defending champion, who was dismissed by Williams, was lying fourth until his Yamaha engine started to lose drive in mid-race and had dropped to eleventh when the engine eventually caught fire three laps from the end.

Yet John Walton, the Arrows team manager, made the revelation that one set of tyres could have lasted the whole race. This might have been sufficient, say, to give

Panis victory, eliminating his 15.8sec margin behind Villeneuve at the finish.

"Damon's tyres could definitely have lasted the race," Walton said, "though there was some difficulty maintaining the tyre temperature as the fuel load dropped." Panis's Honda had apparently been less affected by temperature fluctuation, possibly because of a different set-up in suspension. "I think the tyres could have lasted," Panis said.

Goodyear drivers, in contrast, raised many queries and Michael Schumacher was one of those less than happy. "I was hoping for better than fifth," Schumacher said. "Just as I expected, our tyres did not maintain

their performance level over the whole race. I had a job getting past Hill as his tyres were still in top condition. This lost me time, which probably cost me one or two places ... our problem at the moment is lack of mechanical grip."

Jean Todt, Ferrari's director, said: "Our decision to use hard tyres did not bring the advantage we expected."

This opinion was echoed in the McLaren camp. Mika Hakkinen, who finished fourth, was also dissatisfied. "While my car was quite good at the beginning," Hakkinen said, "my tyres suddenly went off and I lost a lot of grip. Berger overtook me, so after that it was a question of trying to cope as best I

could with a deteriorating tyre situation."

Ron Dennis, head of McLaren, said: "It was interesting to see how the cooler weather played into the hands of the Bridgestone runners. It could have been better, but at least we are still leading both championships."

So the circus moves on to Argentina and more millions will be spent in this fantasy world. There was something grotesque in this event at Interlagos, observing drivers being paid kings' ransoms in pursuit of achievement that is irrelevant to the mass of humanity, while only a few hundred metres away there are slum families living in cardboard homes over open sewers.

الرياض 15 أبريل 1997

RUGBY UNION

Fixtures pile-up may blunt ambition

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD BEST, living up to his name on what was not the greatest of days for Harlequins, the club where he is director of rugby, fell back on the old truism after watching his players lose to Sale in the Pilkington Cup on Saturday. "If you can draw a positive from this, it gives us the opportunity to focus on the league, in which we have tended not to fulfil our ambitions," Best said.

Yet Harlequins are only one among many in the final month of a season that concludes with a riot of activity and will leave players feeling distinctly jaded as they prepare to embark with the British Isles side and various national touring teams. They may not be involved in the chase for the Courage Clubs Championship title, but the scrap is now on for a top-four place and the premier European competition next season.

A line can now effectively be

drawn between the top six and the bottom six clubs in the first division: Northampton and Gloucester may entertain mathematical thoughts of the Heineken Cup, but the two clubs immediately in front of them, Saracens and Sale, have games in hand and must have a better prospect of being in the leading quartet.

Yet there will still be some strange results during April: a glance at the remaining fixtures indicates just how demanding the run-in will be for Wasps, for example. Starting at Leicester tomorrow night, the league leaders finish against the other top-five clubs and Northampton (who have beaten Bath and Leicester at Franklin's Gardens this season), balanced against that is

the fact that, after this week, they do have some chance to draw breath between games because they have only six fixtures left.

Leicester, Saracens and Sale all have eight and who can tell whether injury may not remove a key player — injury provoked as much as anything by fatigue. For the two clubs involved in the cup final, Leicester and Sale, the problem is even greater: no wonder Bob Dwyer, the Leicester coach, has complained that success brings its own penalties.

Bearing in mind that next season begins on August 16 and that pre-season training will start a month earlier, some players will endure wall-to-wall rugby in 1997. That does not sit well with a physical-contact sport; professional era or not, some time must be built in to ensure that the players who appear most frequently in the shop window have a decent break.

As luck would have it, Sale — in many ways the team of the season already — finish with a double strike: Leicester at Heywood Road in the league on May 3 and in the cup final at Twickenham a week later. The teams they field on those two occasions will depend upon whether they still have a goal to go for in the league; if a top-four place is no longer attainable, it would be a chance to rest players before their first visit to Twickenham.

Yet they must be conscious of broader responsibilities. The title chase could go to the wire and if Leicester arrive needing victory, or even an improved points differential, to overhaul, say, Wasps or Bath, those clubs would look to Sale to field their most competitive XV.

Salisbury could win the domestic cup and yet fail to qualify for the Heineken Cup. That is a situation that may need examination — in France, for example, the winners of the *du Manoir* knockout competition qualify for the Heineken Cup alongside the finalists in the French club championship and Brive, seeded through as winners.

However, Best takes the view that Europe's premier competition should go to those who sustain the most consistent season: "The league competition is the most convincing way of showing you have a team which is worthy of Europe," he said. "In the cup, upsets can happen, but it would be disappointing for a team to work itself into the top four and find nothing to show for it."

Salisbury, 29, was back on court just 14 days after surgery for a detached retina and defeated David Palmer, a qualifier from Australia, 15-12, 15-10, 17-14 in 78 minutes.

"The doctors talked about it being possible that I would never play again," Cairns said. "The operation was like something from *The Terminator*. They took out my eye to work on it. Then they said it would be exceptional if I could see well enough to play here and a miracle if I won a match."

In the second round, Cairns will play the No 8 seed, Brett Martin, from Australia, who continued the sharp and deceptive skills that carried him to the Super Series final last week, in defeating Peter Marshall 15-12, 15-8, 15-9 in 47 minutes.

Marshall, the Nottingham double-hander, returning on a wild-card entry after two years struggling against chronic fatigue syndrome, said: "It is a long time since I faced that sort of pace. The first rally was the hardest I have played since I beat Brett in the 1995 semi-finals here. I am feeling good and it was just fantastic to be back in tournament play, but I obviously need a lot more of it to compete at this level again."

Nicol might remember Johnson's forlorn match-ball rally in the third game yesterday in even more stark relief. The 22-year-old world No 3 has to go back to the preliminary rounds of 1992 to find his previous win in the game's premier event until this 7-15, 15-17, 15-14, 15-7, 15-6 breakthrough.

He had even shaken hands with Johnson in the belief that a mis-hit, backhand drop shot had completed his nemesis yet again at 14-12 down in the third game. "It seemed all of a piece with my British Open experiences," the Scot said. "I didn't see the shot and assumed from Paul's reaction that it was a good one."

In fact, the referee, Ray Ginge, had called the shot down, but the marker, Peter Lawrence, declared the match won. It took the intervention of a watching Australian woman player, Toni Weeks, to bring the attention of both players and spectators to the referee's decision and get the match under way again.

That was where I relaxed, perhaps for the first time ever in the British Open," Nicol said.



The Renault Laguna driven by Menu dominated the opening two British Touring Car Championship races at Donington Park yesterday

Menu serves up warning to title rivals

By MARK FOGARTY

ALAIN MENU had so much in hand on his way to a clean sweep of the opening two rounds of the Auto Trader British Touring Car Championship at Donington Park yesterday that he was able to tease the man most likely to rival him for this year's title.

Menu had such a withering advantage in his Renault Laguna that he slowed to what seemed like a crawl in the closing stages of the second race and still beat Rickard Rydell, in the Volvo S40.

His taunt raised and then dashed the hopes of Rydell, who reduced a deficit of 11sec with three laps remaining to just 2.3sec at the finish.

At first it seemed that Menu's Williams-run Renault had suffered a debilitating engine problem, an explanation for his drastically reduced pace made plausible by the retirement of Jason Plato, the team-mate, a few laps earlier. Afterwards, however, the Swiss driver admitted that he had been toying with Rydell.

"I just backed off," Menu said. "I had a good lead so I could back off a lot and just take it easy. The team showed me a pit board saying 'Easy' and easy to me is backing off a lot."

Rydell, of Sweden, recovered from a bad start, which dropped him from fourth to sixth place, to battle his way into a distant second place on

the seventh of 18 laps. Although enticed into a furious pursuit over the final three laps, Rydell later acknowledged Menu's ruse. "He had everything under control," Rydell said. "He was more than 10sec in front and could just run his own race. He didn't have to push in the last few laps."

Menu, runner-up in the championship for the past three years, won both races with such imperious ease that he confirmed his pre-season favouritism to finally win the title this year. His fast start, which in recent years has been the hallmark of the eventual champion, completes the missing link in Menu's previous campaigns.

"It's the first year that the Williams-Renault team is ready from the first meeting," he said. "In the previous two years, it took us a few races to start winning. So that's part of it, but obviously the car is very good, the engine is better than it was last year and the Michelin tyres worked very well."

Rickard was as quick as me, but for some reason he could not show that speed all through the race. So I think the Volvo is right there with us and with three weeks to the next race, I'm sure the other cars will find some speed. It's going to get harder, for sure, but we can also improve the Laguna a little bit more as well."

Menu led both 18-lap, 45-mile races from the green light, beating Plato away from the line on each occasion and establishing immediate advantages. Plato followed his team-leader home in the first race and was poised to cap his debut with another runner-up position in the second event before his retirement.

He had impressed observers in the first race by holding off Rydell, whose S40 was forced out by a holed radiator. A punctured radiator also claimed the Audi A4 quattro of Frank Biela, the defending champion, who recovered in the second race to finish third. The next two rounds of the championship are at Silverstone on April 20.

IN BRIEF

Geoghegan returns to Bath line-up

SIMON GEOGHEGAN, the Ireland wing, will start a league match for Bath for the first time since August when they travel to play Sale tomorrow evening. Geoghegan, a replacement against West Hartlepool last Thursday, who played in two other matches last week after recovering from toe operations, is being given every prospect of recovering full match-fitness in case of a call-up for the British Isles' tour of South Africa.

He takes over from Jon Sleightholme in a side that includes neither of Bath's imports from Argentina, Federico Mendez and German Llanes.

Mendis out

Cricket Sri Lanka has dismissed Dulceme Mendis, their chief cricket selector. The decision to remove Mendis, who was also the manager of the country's World Cup-winning team, came close on the heels of Sri Lanka's 2-0 Test series defeat by New Zealand earlier this month. A former Sri Lanka captain, Mendis had been the head of the national team selection panel since December 1994.

Hayles hearty

Cycling: Rob Hayles, the Olympic track rider, who was a last-minute entry for the Girvan three-day road race, won the 215-mile Scottish event yesterday, increasing his lead in the Premier calendar series and adding to his hat-trick of victories at Herne Hill on Good Friday. Hayles, the Ambrosia rider, won two of the four Girvan stages, including the decisive race yesterday.

Slalom triumph

Skating: Johnny Moulder-Brown scored a substantial victory in the men's slalom, his second title at the British Land British junior championships in Tignes, France, yesterday. Ross Green, the defending champion, left Moulder-Brown to skid his own race when he skied out of the course after less than five gates and did not finish.

In top gear

Motorcycling: Ian Simpson and Jim Moodie dominated the opening round in the British Production Powerbike championship at Thruxton. Simpson won the first of the two races, reduced by three laps to 15, because of two first-corner crashes, but he was pressed all of the way by the determined Moodie. In the second race, Moodie, riding a Suzuki, won by four seconds from Simpson.

Warriors rule

Orienteering: Cumberlands Warriors beat O. K. Tyr, the favourites, to win the Jan Kjellstrom Relay Trophy at Bodmin yesterday. Maintaining the cut and thrust tempo set in the individual titles scramble on Saturday and Sunday, South Yorkshire won a neck-and-neck battle with Sheffield University to take the women's trophy.

Shooting star

Shooting: Squadron Leader David Calvert, RAF, a Great Britain and Northern Ireland shot, won the grand and long-range aggregates at the Bisley Easter meeting. So close was the shooting that central bulletways were used to decide the winner in four of the six competitions.

Hingis reigns

Tennis: Martina Hingis, 16, of Switzerland, was yesterday confirmed as the youngest women's world No 1, deposing Steffi Graf, of Germany. Hingis's top ranking came just two days after she beat Monica Seles to win the Lipton event at Key Biscayne.

Results, page 32

SQUASH

Cairns quick to see winning chance

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

PETER NICOL, of Scotland, broke a four-year jinx by winning his first-round match in the Leekes British Open championship in Cardiff yesterday, despite looking comprehensively beaten yet again at the end of his third game against Paul Johnson. However, it was Mark Cairns, the British national champion, from Oxford, who was declaring his win as the most astonishing of the day.

Cairns, 29, was back on court just 14 days after surgery for a detached retina and defeated David Palmer, a qualifier from Australia, 15-12, 15-10, 17-14 in 78 minutes.

"The doctors talked about it being possible that I would never play again," Cairns said. "The operation was like something from *The Terminator*. They took out my eye to work on it. Then they said it would be exceptional if I could see well enough to play here and a miracle if I won a match."

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BOWLS

Sutherland succumbs to illness

BOB SUTHERLAND, who won the world indoor singles championship in 1983 and was Scotland's first national bowls coach, died in Livingston, West Lothian, on Sunday, aged 54, after a six-month fight against cancer (David Rhys Jones writes).

Sutherland was born in Broxburn, in 1942, and spent six years as a professional footballer, playing centre half with Rangers and Stirling Albion, before suffering a serious knee injury.

Turning to bowls, he won the Scottish indoor singles championship in 1974 and 1982. He took the world title at Coatsbridge the following year, recovering from 11-18 to beat David Bryant, 21-20, in the semi-final and defeating Burnie Gill, of Canada, 21-11 in the final.

Sutherland played indoors for Scotland 12 times between 1974 and 1994, from the Balmfield and West Lothian clubs, and for the past eight years was national coach. His tireless work earned him several awards.

He was a popular figure on the world bowls scene, often leading parties of supporters, mainly from Scotland, to international events, such as last year's world outdoor championships in Adelaide. He leaves a widow, Ellen, and three grown-up children, Adele, Fiona and John.

SNOOKER

Davis adds gloss with whitewash

By PHIL YATES

STEVE DAVIS and Mark Williams employ starkly contrasting styles, but a common bond of excellence linked the two as they reached the last 16 of the British Open in Plymouth yesterday without conceding a frame.

Davis, who is not yet certain of retaining his place in the game's top 16 next season, secured another healthy stock of points by whitewashing Mark Davis 5-0. Combining thoughtful safety, precise positional play and, most important, reliable long potting, the six-times world champion dominated from the outset.

Breaks of 60, 76 and 66 were the highlights as the winner of the tournament in 1986 and 1993 eased through to a meeting with either Anthony Hoggins, who surprisingly overcame John Higgins in the first round, or Martin Clark.

"It's nice to outgun one of the rising young talents on the circuit," the elder Davis said. "I felt very confident in scoring position and that's a great asset because you know, given the chance, you can make the most of it."

While Steve Davis was measured and efficient, Williams, who required a mere 71 minutes to defeat Nick Pearce 5-0, simply relied upon his exceptional potting skills.

Williams, up from sixteenth to sixth in the provisional standings this season primarily as a result of capturing the

Grand Prix title last October, did not allow Pearce to score a single point as he swiftly established a 3-0 advantage.

During this spell of sustained scoring, Williams compiled breaks of 107, 57, 33 and 77 as he amassed 291 unanswered points. He snatched the fourth frame on a re-spotted black and comfortably added the fifth.

It was a disappointing display from Pearce, a former male model, who figured in the semi-finals of last year's International Open and was also responsible for the demise of Ronnie O'Sullivan at this season's Grand Prix.

Dave Harold, whose place in the world's top 16 is under considerably greater threat than that of Davis, was relieved to progress into the last 32 at the expense of Billy Snaddon. Harold prevailed 5-4, after leading 4-2, and will next play Dennis Taylor.

Taylor, disconsolate after failing to negotiate the final qualifying round of the world championship in Telford last week, battled for 3½ hours before beating Stephen Murphy 5-2.

Even if Taylor is relegated from the end of the season, he says has no intention of retiring from competition to concentrate on his hectic television commentary and exhibition schedule.

Scottish reluctant to turn the screw

London Scottish 34
Wakefield 3

By DAVID HANDS

THE season has slipped away from London Scottish and Wakefield. Six months ago, the Scottish looked down on the rest of the second division in the Courage Clubs Championship, but it would not, could not last and, yesterday, they nestled comfortably with Wakefield in mid-table.

Their victory at the Athletic Ground, by a margin that might well have been more decisive but for some brave, last-ditch tackling, created a similar gap to that which exists in the first division. The Scottish have had some investment this season and cling to the coat tails of the wealthier clubs above them; Wakefield have only their own efforts to sustain them and looked a little threadbare.

That may yet change. Last week, they agreed a ground-sharing scheme with Wakefield Trinity rugby league club at Durkar and entertain hopes of attracting substantial sponsorship as a result.

Wakefield retained unpleasant memories of the September game with the Scottish, when they squandered a 2-0 lead and lost 30-27. In bright spring sunshine, however, they were seldom in a position to extract revenge; injuries sustained in the heavy defeat by Moseley on Saturday had taken their toll.

For Scottish, the passing years still found Holmes as industrious as ever, with will-

ing allies in Tarbuck and the raw-boned Hunter, normally a flanker but doing duty at lock. The main surprise was that, with so much territory and ample possession, they scored only three tries, the last of them from Smith in injury-time.

Steele, one of the most effective kickers in the second division, moved Scottish smoothly into a nine-point lead with three penalties, but Wakefield looked to have weathered the storm when Scully stopped Smith in the corner and Hunter's drive for the line was held.

A sloppy tap-back from the lineout, however, allowed Holmes to pounce and, though Jackson retrieved three points with his third penalty attempt, Eriksson and Holmes sent Hunter steaming to the line, Steele's conversion giving Scottish a 23-3 interval lead.

Two further kicks from Steele increased the advantage and, though Johnstone was held in one corner, Scottish finished happily when Millard burst to the short side of a ruck and Smith cut back for the final try.

SCORERS: London Scottish: Tries: Hunter, Smith, Conners; Goals: Steele (5). Wakefield: Penalty goal: Jackson. LONDON SCOTTISH: R. Robinson, J. Milligan, M. Stee, R. Eriksson, C. Smith, J. Steele, D. Millard, P. Johnstone, J. Mackenzie, P. Burnett, M. Duhie, R. Hunter, E. Jones, S. Holmes, C. Tarbuck. Eriksson replaced by S. Thompson (45min). Hunter replaced by A. Jackson (75).

WAKEFIELD: P. Masey, A. McCarron, J. Wynn, D. Shalloo, Jackson, D. Scully, P. Lancaster, T. Barnett, R. Szabo, P. Stewart, S. Crook, A. Bailey, S. Dykes, G. Wilson. McCarron replaced by J. Thompson (20). Scully replaced by R. Latham (65). Wilson replaced by I. Shumworth (72). Jackson replaced by D. Greshoff (85min).

Referee: D. Greshoff (East Midlands)

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European under-21 championship

Qualifying group four

Scotland v Austria

(at Fir Park, Motherwell)

Group eight

Macedonia v Ireland

(at Kioskards, 4.0)

Under-21 international match

England v Switzerland

(at Swindon Town FC, 7.45)

Nationwide League

Second division

Bournemouth v Stockport (7.45)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION

First division: Cardiff City v Ipswich Town (2.0)

Oxford United v Crystal Palace League

Cup: Tottenham Hotspur v Queens Park

Rangers (at St Albans FC)

PONTFRIED LEAGUE: Premier division:

Leeds United v Sheffield Wednesday

(7.0) First division: Notts County v Port

Valley (7.0) Preston North End v Sheffield

United (7.0) Walsingham Wanderers v

Middeburgh (7.0)

SHROPSHIRE LEAGUE: Premier division:

Leeds United v Glenavon (2.0), Crusaders

v Clontarf (2.0), Linfield v Ards

Pontefract v Clontarf (2.0), Pontefract

SCHOOLS MATCHES

Isle of Wight

Festival: Portsmouth v Bradford, Long-

well and North Suffolk v East Berkshire

Kingston-Upon-Hull v Walsley, Vale of White

Horse v Basingstoke, Reading v Leeds

Manchester v Luton, Blackburn v A.N. Other

Yarnell v Bury, Huddersfield v Sheffield, Derby

Coventry and Leamington, Cambridge United

v Doncaster, East Cornwall v Newham

Rotherham v Plymouth, Grays v Woking

Wellingborough, Wakefield v Isle of Wight

Havant v Bishop Auckland

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League

Castleford v Bradford (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

SHOCKER: Bolton Open (at Plymouth)

Pontefract

SQUASH: British Open (at Cardiff)

THE TIMES

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RACING

Commentary

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POOLS FORECAST

Saturday April 5

Coupon No. 5, future, forecast

FA PREMIERSHIP

14 Villa v Everton

2 Man Utd v Derby

3 Newcastle v Sunderland

4 Nottm F v South ptn

5 Barnsley v Birm'gham

6 Bolton v QPR

7 Charlton v Man City

8 Q. Palace v Huddersfield

9 Ipswich v Oldham

10 Oxford v Port Vale

11 Portsmouth v Gillingham

12 Sheff Utd v W. Brom

13 Stoke v Reading

14 Swindon v Southampton

15 Wolves v

Mudahim gives Pitman clean sweep of Nationals

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT AT FAIRHOUSE

JENNY PITMAN snatched a Grand National full house from the jaws of defeat when Mudahim won an incident-packed Jameson Irish Grand National here yesterday.

After Mudahim and the local hope, Ambie Speedy, had flashed past the winning post in a rousing finish to £100,000-added race, the bookmakers bowed to the popular view and made Ambie Speedy 9-1 on to get the verdict in the photo finish.

Jason Tiley, Mudahim's jockey, seemed to agree and, after congratulating Ambie Speedy's rider, Fran Woods, blamed the bypassing of the third and second-last fences for Mudahim's defeat.

The announcement that Mudahim had gained the decision sparked a disbelief in happiness in the Pitman camp and completed the Lambourn trainer's clean sweep of the four Grand Nationals. She has won the Welsh version three times, twice been successful at Aintree and yesterday's success accompanied Willsford's victory in the Scottish National. Pitman joins Martin

BIG RACE RESULT

3.55 JAMESON IRISH GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (32.700, 3m 5f)

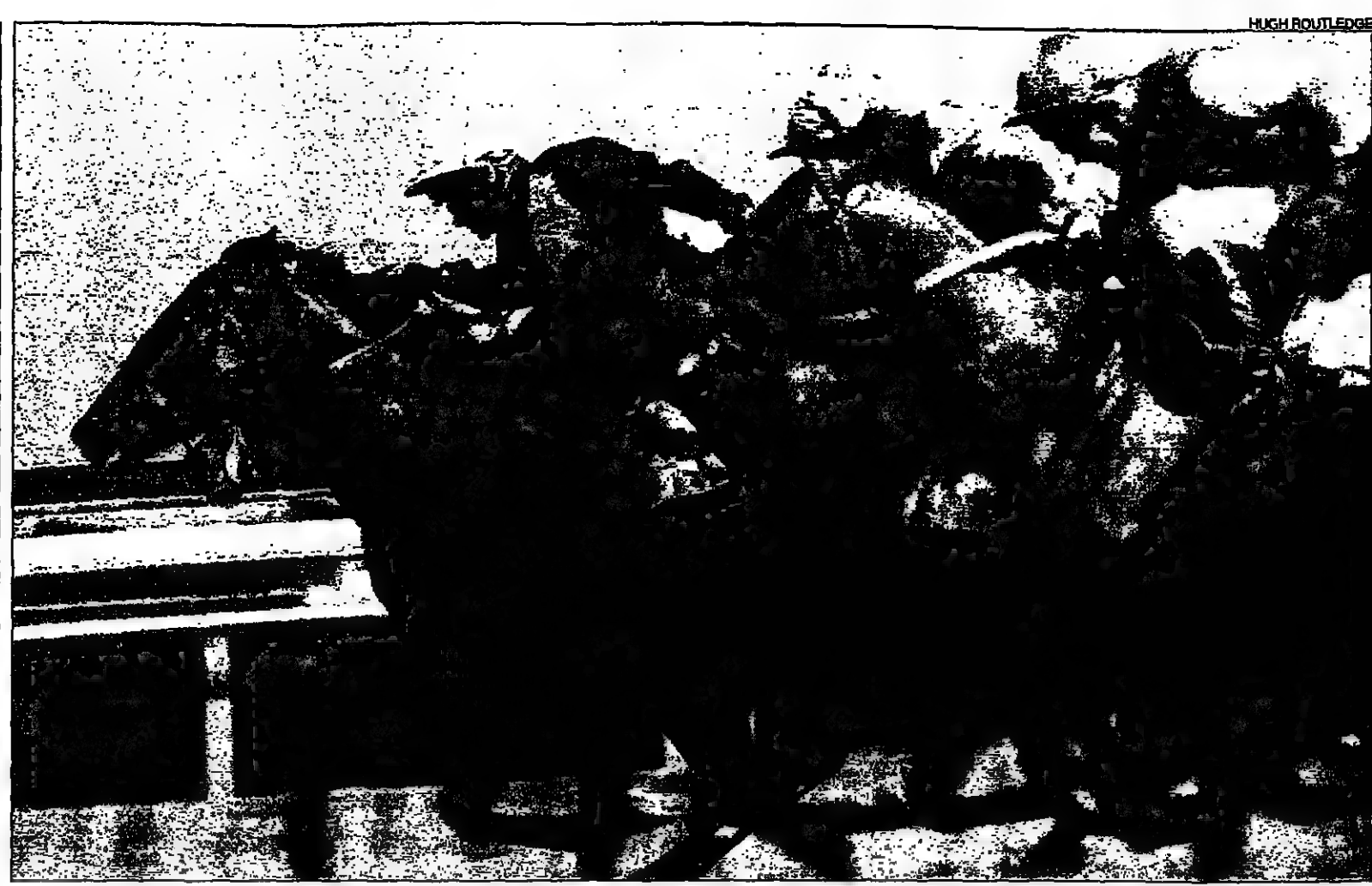
1. MUDAHIM (10) (J. Tiley, 13-2)
2. Ambie Speedy (14) (F. Woods, 14-1)
3. The Grey Monk (11) (A. Dobbin, 9-2 fav)
4. Papillon (14) (C. Swan, 9-1)

ALSO RAN 10. Gintime (10), Steer (10), 14. Lord Singsong (10), Paddy Smollett (10), The Lavinia (10), 16. Aardwolf (10), 20. Cog Harp After (10), Pessara (10), 22. Medley (10), 24. Medley (10), 26. Medley (10), 28. Medley (10), 30. Medley (10), 32. Medley (10), 34. Medley (10), 36. Medley (10), 38. Medley (10), 40. Medley (10), 42. Medley (10), 44. Medley (10), 46. Medley (10), 48. Medley (10), 50. Medley (10), 52. Medley (10), 54. Medley (10), 56. Medley (10), 58. Medley (10), 60. Medley (10), 62. Medley (10), 64. Medley (10), 66. Medley (10), 68. Medley (10), 70. Medley (10), 72. Medley (10), 74. Medley (10), 76. Medley (10), 78. Medley (10), 80. Medley (10), 82. Medley (10), 84. Medley (10), 86. Medley (10), 88. Medley (10), 90. Medley (10), 92. Medley (10), 94. Medley (10), 96. Medley (10), 98. Medley (10), 100. Medley (10).

Tony Dobbin, The Grey Monk's jockey, said: "The ground was just far too firm. He never let himself down, even when he was jumping."

The riders of the principals insisted that their horses were not helped by missing out the third- and second-last fences on the final circuit. The Noel Meade-trained pair, Cog Harp After and the Lavinia, fell at those fences respectively on the first circuit and both had to be put down.

Woods was bitterly disappointed after initially believing he had won his third Irish Grand National in four years. "When we pulled up Jason actually said 'well done', I knew it was tight but I thought I had it. My fellow could have done with those two fences being left in but I was about half a length up until the last 50 yards when he started to hang."



Strathmore Clear, given a forceful ride by Pat Eddery, wins division one of the Stalk Maiden Stakes at Kempton Park yesterday

Lewis comes in from the wilderness

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE most depressing spell in Geoff Lewis's training career ended abruptly and joyously at Kempton yesterday when the popular Epsom handier saddled a 13-1 double.

When a bug or virus lays low a stable of horses, the despair soon sets in. Those horses that are deemed well enough to run invariably disappoint and visits to the winner's enclosure become a distant memory. For Lewis, 1996 was a nightmare.

"It's awful. If anyone tells you just to be patient, they are talking rubbish. Most people have gone through it but I have been fortunate as last season was my first bad year since I started training in 1980," Lewis explained.

The rot set in last summer when his string was struck by a throat infection, and at the start of racing yesterday

Lewis had gone 218 days without a winner, during which time he sent out 88 runners.

Strathmore Clear finally ended the months in the wilderness when he just prevailed in a 13-1 to 11-2 in the opening division of the Stalk Maiden Stakes. The understandable knock to his confidence meant Lewis did not avail himself of the odds. "It's the only time I haven't backed him," he said.

However, the joy of having a winner more than compensated for missing out on the gamble and Eastern Prophets confirmed the wellbeing of the Lewis horses when holding on to win the Teal Handicap. "My owners have been more than just patient and hopefully we will keep going through the season. It is just a lovely feeling to have the horses running well."

The sense of relief felt by Lewis was shared by Michael Tabor as Dr

Massini, one-time favourite for the Derby last year, showed he had lost none of his sparkle by winning the Magnolia Stakes in sparkling style. Dr Massini, who was withdrawn only days before the Epsom classic when he went lame, subsequently disappointed in the Irish Derby and did not race again last year.

With Prince Of My Heart setting a sedate pace, the race developed into a sprint in the short straight and although Dr Massini was several lengths off the lead, he produced a striking turn of foot to win going away by 2 1/2 lengths.

As long as he remains sound, Dr Massini looks likely to be aimed at some of the best middle distance prizes this term and provide his owner with more betting opportunities. "I helped myself today - it was a very good price," Tabor said.

Daragh O'Donoghue enjoyed a

dream start to his riding career in Britain when he partnered Monasabb in to a comfortable success in the City Industrial Supplies Conditions Stakes. The 24-year-old Dubliner recently joined Ed Dunlop as the Newmarket trainer's apprentice having spent eight years with Dermot Weld in Ireland, during which time he rode 57 winners, including two consecutive November Handicaps.

Romios has not always appeared the most genuine performer, but Richard Quinn gave the Paul Cole-trained five-year-old a peach of a ride to lead late in the Coral Rosebery Handicap. Cole will be back at Kempton today to give Putra, winner of the Richmond Stakes last summer, a racecourse gallop in preparation for the 2,000 Guineas. "He's done well from two to three and has been working well. He will probably go straight for the Guineas."

PITMAN'S NATIONAL HEROES

Year	Winner
1983	Cobblers
1984	Royal Athlete
1985	Cobblers
1986	Burrough Hill Lad
1987	Stearns
1988	Willsford
1989	Mudahim

UTTOXETER

Time	Winner
2.10	APOLLONO (nap)
2.40	My Nominee
3.10	Oakbury

The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 4.40 PEARL EPEE. Carl Evans: 2.40 My Nominee.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 111433 GOOD TIMES 13 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

102 111434 GOOD TIMES 13 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

103 111435 GOOD TIMES 13 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

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109 111441 GOOD TIMES 13 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

110 111442 GOOD TIMES 13 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

2.10 CENTRAL TELECOM/BOX NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (22.537, 2m) (15 runners)

1. 111439 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

2. 111440 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

3. 111441 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

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8. 111446 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

9. 111447 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

10. 111448 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

2.40 MOUNT ARGUS HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,585, 2m 7f) (9 runners)

1. 111439 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

2. 111440 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

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9. 111447 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Trainer	Wins	Runs	W%	Jockey	Wins	Runs	W%
G. Stanger	18	35	51.4	J. Dobbin	28	58	48.3
J. Fitzgerald	7	34	20.6	M. Brennan	5	22	22.7
N. Henderson	7	30	23.3	B. Hall	5	20	25.0
S. Holliman	21	35	59.4	C. Beggan	10	54	18.5
N. Bailey	25	116	21.5	S. Mitchell	8	52	15.4

RACELINE

10930 168+
101 201
102 202
103 203
120 220

UTTOXETER
WETHERBY
SOUTHWELL
IRISH

FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

3.10 MARSTON'S FREE TRADE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (21.858, 2m 4f) (10 runners)

1. 111439 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

2. 111440 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

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10. 111448 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

3.40 C.J. PEARCE HANDICAP CHASE (24.656, 2m 4f) (3 runners)

1. 111439 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

2. 111440 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

3. 111441 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

4.10 MORILEPHONE GROUP HANDICAP HURDLE (24.758, 2m) (7 runners)

1. 111439 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

2. 111440 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

3. 111441 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

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7. 111445 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

4.40 C.J. PEARCE NOVICES CHASE (23.550, 2m 5f) (6 runners)

1. 111439 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

2. 111440 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

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6. 111444 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

5.10 JENKINSONS CATERERS MAIDEN HURDLE (22.432, 2m) (12 runners)

1. 111439 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

2. 111440 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

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10. 111448 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

FORM FOCUS

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Potentate adds gloss to Chepstow record

CHEPSTOW course specialist Potentate continued his winning ways at the Welsh track yesterday when leading home a Martin Pipe one-two in the Welsh Champion Hurdle. The Jamie Evans-trained six-year-old made every yard of the running to defy stable companion Daraydan by six lengths and extend his unbeaten record at Chepstow to six.

"That is why I came here today," Pipe said. "They should name a race after him now as he always wins here and simply loves the track. It was a bit worried about the ground for him as he likes some cut, but I didn't think we could beat Mistinguet, the champion trainer, who last won the race with High Knowl ten years ago, said."

Evans had earlier steered home his first winner at the course after Our Ranking made all in the Springtime Claiming Hurdle to initiate a double for the rider and Pipe. Stan Mellor is already considering next season's Whit-

FORM FOCUS

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111446 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

111447 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

111448 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

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111441 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4. B West (7) 85

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111443 ALPINE HUNT 27 (9F.5.5) (J. Dobbin) 5 Hm 12-4.

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0-12
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0-14
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	+3-30
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0-0
10203	L Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0-1
10301	M Bonnich	Aston Villa	3.50	0+24
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0+19
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0-1
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0+4
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0-1
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	0+26
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0+10
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0-27
10603	F Gnouda	Chelsea	3.00	0-0
10701	S Ogricovic	Coventry City	1.50	0-31
10702	S Folan	Coventry City	0.50	0-0
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0-7
10802	R Houlis	Derby County	1.00	0-34
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0+4
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0-10
10903	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.50	0-0
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	0-47
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0-24
11103	P Garrard	Everton	2.50	0+1
11201	G Rottas	Hearts	2.00	0-7
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	0-27
11401	D Laidlaw	Kilmarnock	1.00	0+44
11501	M Beesley	Leeds United	1.50	0+5
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0-0
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	0+30
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0-16
11603	K Keller	Leicester City	1.00	0-14
11701	D James	Liverpool	0.50	-1+25
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0-0
11801	P Schmalzer	Manchester United	5.00	0+12
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0+5
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0-20
11902	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	0-23
11903	S Roberts	Middlesbrough	1.50	0+3
12001	M Schwarzer	Middlesbrough	2.00	-1-4
12101	S Hladik	Motherwell	1.50	0-31
12102	S Hladik	Newcastle United	4.00	-1-4
12103	P Smolcek	Newcastle United	3.00	0-0
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-1-44
12202	A Fettes	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0-0
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	-3-8
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0+29
12402	D Dilks	Rangers	3.50	0-0
12501	K Prossman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0+4
12502	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0-0
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0-28
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0-2
12603	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	0-2
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	0-41
12801	A Coton	Sunderland	1.00	0-9
12802	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0-18
12901	E Beardsley	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0-0
12902	L Mikosko	West Ham United	2.00	0-26
12903	S Maitland	West Ham United	0.50	0+5
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	0+5
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0-1



Collymore's goal against Arsenal kept Liverpool in the title race and earned him two points during a lean week

30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	0+34
30302	U Ehlhage	Aston Villa	3.00	0+63
30303	C Tiler	Aston Villa	1.00	0+19
30304	R Sclimac	Aston Villa	1.00	0+28
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0+30
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0-0
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0-3
30404	N Marner	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0+2
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	0+29
30502	M MacKury	Celtic	1.50	0+37
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	0+19
30504	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00	-1-1
30601	E Annoni	Celtic	3.00	0+4
30602	M Durberry	Chelsea	2.50	0+1
30603	F Laboul	Chelsea	2.50	0+29
30604	T Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0-4
30605	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0+3
30606	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0+1
30607	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	0+11
30701	L Dailish	Coventry City	2.00	0+5
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0+5
30703	G Breen	Coventry City	1.50	0-1
30704	A Evtushok	Coventry City	1.50	0+1
30801	D Wessall	Derby County	1.00	0-0
30802	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0-1
30803	J Laursen	Derby County	1.00	0+11
30804	M Carbon	Derby County	0.50	0-5
30901	S Presley	Dunfermline	1.00	0+85
31001	M Miller	Dunfermline	0.75	0-2
31002	I Dan Eblman	Dunfermline	0.75	0-18
31101	C Short	Everton	2.50	0+14
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	0+14
31201	C Short	Everton	2.00	0+10
31202	D McPherson	Hearts	1.00	0+27
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0+4
31302	S Walsh	Hibernian	0.75	0+9
31303	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0-3
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	0+3
31402	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	0+4
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	0+31
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0+2
31503	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.00	0+28
31504	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0-0
31601	R Molenau	Leeds United	2.00	0+24
31602	S Walsh	Leeds United	1.00	0+12
31603	P Karmark	Leeds United	0.50	0+8
31604	S Prior	Leeds United	1.00	0+3
31605	M Elliott	Leeds United	1.50	0+9
31701	P Babl	Liverpool	3.50	0+24
31702	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	0+32
31703	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	0+14
31704	D Maitoo	Liverpool	1.00	0+28
31705	B T Kwame	Liverpool	2.00	0+8
31801	G Palfrey	Manchester United	3.50	0+28
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	0+34
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	0+24
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0+3
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0-12
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	0-10
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0-4
31905	G Festa	Middlesbrough	1.50	0+4
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	0.75	0+8
32002	S van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0+10
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	0+18
32102	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0+7
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0+17
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0+7
32202	S Chellie	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0+12
32203	S Blatherwick	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0-8
32301	D Craig	Raith Rovers	0.50	0-1
32302	G Mitchell	Raith Rovers	0.50	0-1
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	0+57
32402	A McLaren	Rangers	3.00	0+15
32403	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0+31
32404	G Petric	Rangers	2.50	0+7
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0+15
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0+33
32503	B Linington	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0-1
32601	G Mabbitt	Southampton	1.50	0-18
32602	A Nelson	Southampton	1.00	0+5
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	0-2
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	0.50	0-4
32605	U van Goober	Southampton	1.50	0-19
32701	A Melville	Sunderland	1.00	0+12
32702	S van der Meer	Sunderland	0.50	0-1
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	0+11
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0+17
32802	J Scates	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0+8
32803	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0+14
32804	G Mabbitt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0-0
32805	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0-8
32901	T Vegg	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	0-0
32902	S Bilic	West Ham United	2.50	0+11
32903	M Ripper	West Ham United	2.50	0+6
32904	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	0-2
32905	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	0-0
32906	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	0+4
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	0.50	0-0
33002	S Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0-0
33003	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	0+18
33004	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	0+14
33005	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0-0

40406	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0+5
40407	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0-0
40501	P McStay	Celtic	3.00	0+22
40502	A Thom	Celtic	2.50	0+27
40503	S Donnelly	Celtic	2.50	0+29
40504	P Grant	Celtic	1.50	0+26
40505	P Di Canio	Celtic	3.00	0+28
40506	D Hannah	Celtic	1.50	0+10
40507	P O'Donnell	Celtic	2.50	0+6
40601	R Guff	Chelsea	3.50	0+9
40602	D Wiae	Chelsea	3.00	0+38
40603	C Burley	Chelsea	2.00	0+30
40604	E Newton	Chelsea	2.00	0+17
40605	R Roca	Chelsea	0.50	0-0
40606	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	3.00	0+28
40607	I Morris	Chelsea	2.00	0-0
40608	P Hughes	Chelsea	2.00	0+1
40701	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	0+32
40702	G McAllister	Coventry City	5.50	0+54
40703	E Jess	Coventry City	2.00	0+31
40704	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	0+34
40705	P Teller	Coventry City	1.50	0+31
40706	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0+28
40707	W Boland	Coventry City	0.25	0-0
40708	M O'Neill	Coventry City	1.50	0+1
40801	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.00	0+47
40802	P Simpson	Derby County	1.50	0+5
40803	R van der Laan	Derby County	1.50	0+20
40804	D Powell	Derby County	1.00	0+25
40805	S Flynn	Derby County	0.75	0+12
40806	G Hogg	Derby County	0.50	0+31
40807	C Dally	Derby County	1.50	0+33
40901	G McSwegan	Dunfermline	2.00	0+27
40902	R Winters	Dunfermline	1.50	0+62
40903	G Johnson	Dunfermline	1.00	0-0
41001	J Dolan	Dunfermline	1.00	0+25
41002	J McNally	Dunfermline	0.75	0+19
41003	D Bowman	Dunfermline	0.75	0+24
41004	A Barmes	Dunfermline	0.50	0+2
41005	H Francis	Dunfermline	1.00	0+41
41006	C Robertson	Dunfermline	1.00	0+32
41007	A Smith	Dunfermline	0.75	0+46
41008	D Fleming	Dunfermline	0.50	0+27
41101	G Speed	Everton	4.00	0+58
41102	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0+29
41103	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0+11
41104	C Thomson	Everton	2.00	0+9
41201	A McManus	Hearts	1.50	0+7
41202	S Fulton	Hearts	1.00	0+31
41301	P McGinlay	Hibernian	1.50	0+38
41302	G Love	Hibernian	0.75	0-9
41303	I Cameron	Hibernian	0.75	0+10
41401	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	1.00	0+25
41402	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	0.75	0-0
41403	M Skilling	Kilmarnock	0.50	0+11
41501	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00	0+52
41502	A Gray	Leeds United	2.50	0+1
41503	C Palmer	Leeds United	2.00	0+27
41504	R Wallace	Leeds United	1.50	0+32
41505	L Sharpe	Leeds United	3.50	0+43
41506	I Hart	Leeds United	1.00	0+18
41507	M Ford	Leeds United	0.50	0+8
41508	A Couzens	Leeds United	0.50	0+8
41509	M Tindler	Leeds United	0.50	0+2
41510	M Jackson	Leeds United	1.00	0+8
41601	N Lannon	Leeds United	2.00	0+30
41602	G Parker	Leeds United	2.00	0+32
41603	S Taylor	Leeds United	2.00	0+20
41604	L Lawrence	Leeds United	0.25	0+2
41605	M Izett	Leeds United	1.00	0+40
41701	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	+1+50
41702	J McAuley	Liverpool	4.00	+2+43
41703	J Redknapp	Liverpool	4.00	+1+21
41704	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	+1+49
41705	M Thomas	Liverpool	2.50	0+33
41706	M Kennedy	Liverpool	1.00	0-0
41707	B Benger	Liverpool	3.50	0+27
41801	R Gigg	Manchester United	7.00	0+43
41802	R Kean	Manchester United	4.50	0+17
41803	D Beckham	Manchester United	4.00	0+55
41804	N Butt	Manchester United	3.50	0+31
41805	B McClair	Manchester United	1.50	0+9
41806	T Cooke	Manchester United	1.00	0-0
41807	R Thornley	Manchester United	1.00	0+0
41808	S Davies	Manchester United	0.50	0-0
41809	J Cryer	Manchester United	2.50	0+17
41810	K Poborsky	Manchester United	4.00	0+27
41901	Emerson	Middlesbrough	3.50	+1+28
41902	Juninho	Middlesbrough	3.50	0+66
41903	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	2.00	+1+25
41904	B Thompson	Middlesbrough	1.00	0+5
41905	R Muntari	Middlesbrough	1.00	0+30
41906	C Liddle	Middlesbrough	0.50	0+8

Shortage of matches opens way for novice selector



INTERNATIONAL matches have meant that Interactive Team Football has been curtailed this week to just two games. The astute selectors in ITF have, therefore, been busy drafting in players from Arsenal, Liverpool, Middlesbrough and Nottingham Forest, in the hope of picking up valuable points.

The weekly winner has a modest score — ten — but that is enough to gain him the £250 prize. Mr A. Ward, from Rhyl, in Chwyd, had seven players from those four clubs, and that proved to be sufficient for a man who only entered the game this week.

The winner of the £1,000 monthly prize, is Mr Vikram Wadhwa, from London, with his team The Winners VW. Mr Wadhwa, who scored 123 points during March, is in the leading 300 selectors overall, with an outside chance of winning the £50,000 prize.

In the overall game, Mr D. Edmondson remains the leading selector, by five points.

You can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes, using the ITF transfer system which allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866



The goal scored by Haaland, left, against Middlesbrough was valuable to many ITF selectors



When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

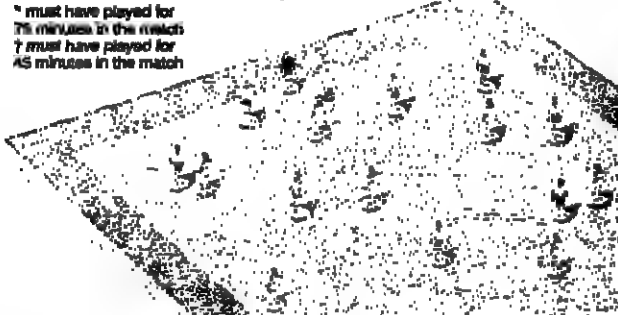
If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

□ All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7916. All other inquiries can be made on 01522 488 122.

968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS							
IN				LOANED PLAYERS			
10804	Matt Poole	Derby County	£1.00m	12802	Steve Skelton	West Ham United	00.50m
11703	Chris Hughton	Liverpool	£1.00m	20203	Steve Morris	Arsenal	£1.00m
42107	Don Hamilton	Newcastle United	£1.50m	30304	Phil King	Aston Villa	20.50m
42512	Dave Bilson	Sheff Wed	10.50m	41108	Cliff The	Aston Villa	£1.00m
42525	Steve Lomas	West Ham United	12.00m	61101	Mark Tinsley	Leeds United	02.00m
51905	Piero Lavaredo	Leeds United	12.00m		Joe Hayes	Everton	02.00m
51907	Derek Lilly	Leeds United	20.75m				
52708	Alan Johnston	Sunderland	12.00m				
MOVED				LOANED PLAYERS			
55003	Tommy Johnson	Celtic	£4.00m	<p>N Gudmundsson (Blackburn) to Ipswich, three weeks; B O'Neil (Celtic) to Nottingham Forest, three weeks; J Lipo (Nottingham Forest) to Grimsby, and of season; S Besterham (Nottingham Forest) to Reading, and of season; D Walsall (Derby) to Birmingham, and of season; S Flynn (Derby) to Stoke, and of season; M Taylor (Derby) to Wycombe, and of season; M Williams (Sheff Wed Wednesday) to Peterborough, and of season. M Taylor periods subject to situation</p>			
OUT							
11902	Alan Miller	Middlesbrough	£1.50m				

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF					
All 1986-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennesse Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Points deducted do not count but results decided in the way will count for managers					
POINTS SCORED					
Goalkeeper	Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Striker	Scores goal	2pts
Goalkeeper	Saves penalty	3pts	All players	Appearance†	1pt
Full back/Central defender	Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Goalkeeper	Scores hat-trick	8pts
Goalkeeper	Saves goal	3pts	Manager	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player	Keeps clean sheet*	1pt	Manager	Team draws	1pt
Goalkeeper	Saves goal	3pts			
POINTS DEDUCTED					
Goalkeeper	Concedes goal	2pts	Striker	Booked	1pt
Goalkeeper	Concedes goal	1pt	Goalkeeper	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	Concedes goal	1pt	Goalkeeper	Misses penalty	1pt
Goalkeeper	Concedes goal	1pt	Goalkeeper	Scores own goal	1pt
All players	Sent off	3pts	Manager	Team loses	1pt



ENTER A NEW TEAM TODAY

THERE ARE BIG PRIZES TO BE WON EVERY WEEK AND EVERY MONTH

The ITF Manager of the Week and the Manager of the Month are up for grabs from now until the end of the season. Enter a team today for your chance to be a winner in 1997. The Manager of the Week or Month can be won by any team no matter where it is in the league, the prize for the Manager of the Week or Month simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one week or month.

The prize for the Manager of the Week is £250 cash, plus a £250 Sports Gift Voucher for an amateur football team in your community — as nominated by you. The Manager of the Month will receive £1,000 cash.

Enter today by following the instructions below.

Enter ITF by phone on 0891 405 011

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom, call 44 990 100 320

1. You must use a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone).
2. Choose 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
3. Do not spend more than £35 million.
4. Do not choose more than two individuals (2 players or 1 player and 1 manager) from any one football club.
5. Once you have chosen your team, call the entry line, above, and follow these step-by-step instructions.

a) You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager.

b) You must speak the name of your team (no more than 16 characters) your name, address, with postcode, and daytime telephone number.

c) Finally, you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number and your chosen team as no postal notification will be sent.

NB. Any new team will only score points on future games.

0891 calls cost 50p per minute. Your call will cost approximately double if made from a pay phone. In the event of there being more than one Manager of the Week or Month, the winner will be chosen at random. All ITF rules apply, a copy of which will be made available on request.



See Sky Text, page 118

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 866 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred will be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £35 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 50p per minute. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player code	Player code
Club	Club
Player in	Player in
Club	Club

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Edmo Ltd	(D Edmondson)	889	111	Alice	(J Pippen)	586	201	Grimsby Army	(S Gray)	576
2	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	888	112	Stim's Dream	(C A Kitchen)	587	202	Triple Top Ten	(P Bailey)	575
3	Turner's Earners 5	(P Turner)	888	113	NST Monkstone	(J Staszewicz)	587	203	Totted Five	(E Kirby)	575
4	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	888	114	Infiniti George	(R Newbould)	587	204	Doppelgangereut	(J Whaling)	575
5	Brain's Team	(S Howes)	874	115	The Dummies 1	(M Robson)	587	205	John Hunt Taunton B	(J Hunt)	575
6	AS 4	(A Boyland)	872	116	The Dummies 1	(D Curzon)	587	206	Scottish United	(S Scott)	575
7	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	871	117	Ed's Grin Team	(J Swain)	586	207	Ed's Grin Team	(J Swain)	575
8	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	871	118	Billy No Mates XI	(M Bremner)	586	208	Bung Hol	(G Watson)	575
9	Nobby 3	(J Brown)	869	119	Kinky Imports	(S Fraser)	586	209	Schoko Zoo	(P Roach)	575
10	Nobby 2	(J Brown)	867	120	Star Chameleon	(M MacMillan)	586	210	Devotee Unit 1	(J Pull)	574
11	Nobby 1	(J Brown)	867	121	Inter The Bin	(M Ward)	585	211	Jack's Nightmare	(N J Lane)	574
12	Diggers	(V Cox)	867	122	Apparatus FC	(W Heslop)	585	212	Tas Boot	(D A Sutton)	574
13	Pin Ups Two	(P Tustler)	862	123	Ed's Grin Team	(J B Portwood)	584	213	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
14	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	861	124	Ed's Grin Team	(A Lone)	584	214	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
15	Monksland AFC 3	(R Turner)	859	125	Ed's Grin Team	(M Baber)	584	215	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
16	Deer Rangers 3	(J Clayton)	857	126	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	216	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
17	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	856	127	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	217	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
18	Nobby 29	(J Brown)	856	128	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	218	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
19	Nobby 2	(J Brown)	856	129	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	219	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
20	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	854	130	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	220	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
21	Jabberwocky	(P A Anson)	854	131	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	221	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
22	Parish Bibles 3	(J Hamilton)	854	132	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	222	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
23	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	853	133	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	223	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
24	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	853	134	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	224	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
25	Isurus	(B Wells)	851	135	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	225	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
26	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	845	136	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	226	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
27	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	843	137	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	227	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
28	Beeston Celtic	(P Turner)	843	138	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	228	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
29	Turner's Earners 1	(P Turner)	842	139	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	229	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
30	Hunter's Mob	(C Hunter)	842	140	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	230	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
31	Slythe Spartans	(T Blythe)	840	141	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	231	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
32	Uni Boys Unit 1	(B Gardiner)	839	142	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	232	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
33	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	838	143	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	233	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
34	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	838	144	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	234	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
35	John Hunt Taunton I	(J Hunt)	838	145	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	235	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
36	John Hunt Taunton J	(J Hunt)	838	146	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	236	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
37	John Hunt Taunton K	(J Hunt)	838	147	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	237	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
38	John Hunt Taunton L	(J Hunt)	838	148	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	238	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
39	John Hunt Taunton M	(J Hunt)	838	149	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	239	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
40	John Hunt Taunton N	(J Hunt)	838	150	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	240	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
41	John Hunt Taunton O	(J Hunt)	838	151	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	241	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
42	John Hunt Taunton P	(J Hunt)	838	152	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	242	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
43	John Hunt Taunton Q	(J Hunt)	838	153	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	243	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
44	John Hunt Taunton R	(J Hunt)	838	154	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	244	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
45	John Hunt Taunton S	(J Hunt)	838	155	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	245	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
46	John Hunt Taunton T	(J Hunt)	838	156	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	246	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
47	John Hunt Taunton U	(J Hunt)	838	157	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	247	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
48	John Hunt Taunton V	(J Hunt)	838	158	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	248	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
49	John Hunt Taunton W	(J Hunt)	838	159	Ed's Grin Team	(M MacMillan)	583	249	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574
50	John Hunt Taunton X	(J Hunt)	838	160	Ed's Grin Team	(R Gohl)	583	250	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	574

LAW

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New disclosure provisions call for new approaches by defence solicitors, says Roger Ede

In the name of justice

New provisions on disclosure by the police to the prosecution and the defence in all criminal cases come into force today. The proposals also sweep away the law made by judges in miscarriage of justice cases to ensure proper disclosure.

The failure of the police and the Crown to disclose evidence in the case of the Guildford Four has been a feature of most of the proven and alleged miscarriages of justice of the past 20 years. Since the 1970s, numerous people have been wrongly sentenced to years in prison because of failures to disclose vital evidence to the defence. Examples include the Birmingham Six (16 years in jail), the Guildford Four (15 years), the Maguire Seven (up to nine years), Judith Ward (18 years), Stefan Kiszko (16 years) and the Bridgewater Three (18 years).

"Non-disclosure," Lord Justice Gidwell said in the appeal of Judith Ward in 1993, is a "potent source of injustice".

In the Guildford Four case, for instance, Gerry Conlon had a cast-iron alibi all along. An alibi of which he knew nothing. He was not in a position to request its disclosure. An alibi witness had seen Conlon asleep at a hotel in Kilburn at the time he was supposed to be carrying out one of the bombings miles away. The witness statement was passed by police to the director of public prosecutions but did not become available to the defendants for another 15 years.

Could such mistakes happen again? Defence lawyers believe they could and are worried that the new rules place too heavily a reliance on the police, who have the responsibility for identifying and informing the prosecutor



Gerry Conlon is released after the Guildford Four's convictions are overturned on appeal

about material they have held back that either undermines their case or helps the defence. Until now, the defence has had relatively free access to this material and, knowing of its existence, has been able to call on the court to arbitrate if the prosecution has refused to allow its inspection. The changes introduced by the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 and its Code of Practice meant that the police are expected to adopt the defence solicitor's role and provide evidence that could defeat their case. Yet too many officers regard any probing by the defence as an unnecessary barrier to convicting the "plainly guilty" instead of an essential safeguard and the natural course will be for the officer to select and reveal only material that supports the police version of events.

Research has shown that there are strong pressures on police officers to build a case around a particular suspect, screening out contradictory evidence, ignoring shortcomings in the police investigation and closing their minds to other possibilities. The videotaping of police officers interviewing prosecution witnesses has shown how they influence witness evidence by a variety of techniques including the extensive use of leading questions, verbal domination of the interview by the police officer, omission of relevant things said by the witness and inclusion of things not said, failure to reflect the witness's uncertainty or confusion about factual assertions, use of the officer's own grammatical style to distort claims made by the witness and failure to allow the witness to correct errors before signing the statement. Significantly, in Scotland defence solicitors interview all

the prosecution witnesses themselves before trial.

What the Crown Prosecution Service and the defence normally see reflects only the latest stages in a sequence of actions by police officers and others. The CPS, the defence and the courts may be left in the dark about the history of the evidence disclosed. Though the defence may apply to the court to order the disclosure of material held by the police, it first has to show how this helps its particular case. Without seeing it, the defence may not know how it is relevant and unless it can show its relevance will not be allowed to see it.

So what can the defence do? How can it grapple with this

restrictive new law? If the police cannot be expected to reveal their own shortcomings and the CPS is hard-pressed just to review the disclosed evidence, it falls on the defence to show that the prosecution case is not what it seems. Today, the Law Society publishes *Active Defence*, an analysis of problem areas in police and forensic investigation techniques and an explanation of pro-active tactics and methods of defence preparation aimed at exposing the prosecution case. Written by me and Dr Eric Shepherd, the forensic psychologist in the Bridgewater Three case who shot holes in the Molloy confession, it shows solicitors how, by analysis, they can identify what is

problematic in the evidence disclosed to them or missing from it altogether. It explains how they can then best deal with the new restrictions on disclosure in order to obtain the "behind the scenes" material that can expose hidden flaws in the prosecution case. Unless defence solicitors are able to get access to police material forming the background to the evidence presented to the court, there is a risk that not only will history repeat itself and miscarriages of justice continue to occur but that this time they will stay undetected.

● The author is secretary of the Law Society's Criminal Law Committee. *Active Defence* is published by the Law Society, £45.95 plus p&hp. Details: 01255 465656.

On the square, but are they on the level?

The Crown Prosecutor licked his lips nervously. "What do you mean losing my job?" I was defending a young woman on a charge of drink driving and, at her insistence, called her father as a character witness. The prosecutor, surprised, asked why. I managed to keep a straight face as I told him that the father was a senior Freemason and unless the charge was dropped, the prosecutor would be out of a job.

He looked anxious, then realised I was teasing. The charge was not dropped and the woman was convicted. The significance of the incident is that though Freemasons may not have any power, there is a widespread feeling in the criminal justice system that they may have.

The Home Affairs Select Committee received more than a whiff of this feeling when it was taking evidence. Last week, the committee concluded that greater openness would remove such suspicions. They recommended that police, JPs, judges, and crown prosecutors should have to register publicly their membership of Freemasonry. Even better, the MPs said, if Freemasons opted for openness and disclosure themselves.

A distinction must be drawn between private and public functions. It is perfectly legitimate for a solicitor to decide to go easy on billing a masonic client who is down on his luck, but it is wrong to drop a charge against someone because he is a mason. I am both a non-mason and cynical about human nature, but I have never come across any direct evidence of masons using their connections improperly. This does not mean that it does not happen and I have heard a legal executive boasting that he could always get a favourable result when he appeared before a masonic district judge. I also know of one minor judicial appointment that is only explicable in terms of influence, but whether it is masonic or otherwise I cannot say.

The difficulty is that many clients believe that masons have disproportionate power in the courts. It can be particularly embarrassing with women matrimonial clients who tell you that it is no good going to court because their husband is a prominent mason and all the judges are in his lodge. The source of this information is usually the husband. It can be quite unhelpful having the client interpreting all the proceedings in terms of who is a mason and who is not.

The fears are not confined to the clients. One non-masonic solicitor phoned me to warn me not to sue a masonic solicitor because they would all "gang up on you". I think his fears were misplaced, but he is not

unusual in thinking that masons will exact revenge on anyone who slights a member.

The most disquieting element is that many masons often not only keep their membership secret, but will actually deny it. My suspicion is that Rotarians are more active than masons in doing favours for each other, but because they wear lapel badges it is all very visible and can be seen to be harmless. Some members of Round Table use the organisation for business contact purposes, despite it being prohibited. Round Tablers are even more visible than Rotarians and not only have lapel badges but car stickers.

It is the element of secrecy with masons which causes concern. It is in the nature of men to form clubs and societies and do each other favours simply because they know each other. Women barristers have argued that Freemasonry discriminates against them in the law because they are excluded from membership and thus cannot get to meet judges socially and be recommended for judicial appointments. As one of the rituals involves exposing the right breast, women barristers would not go unnoticed if they were allowed to join. Joining the local golf club may be a less taxing way of getting known.

Unlike the golf club, there appears to outsiders to be no purpose in masonry other than furthering the interests of fellow masons, although masons claim that much of their work is charitable. Round Table and Rotary have a public charitable function, despite being primarily fellowship organisations, but there is a significant lack of community buses proudly presented by the local

lodge. The religious and moral basis of Freemasonry is slight to say the least. There is the concept of passing a skilled craft from member to member and the primitive dedication of the Master Builder. One lapsed member described the rituals to me as "pages of mindless gobbledegook to be learnt by heart".

Masons keep their rituals secret, probably for the good reason that if they became public, they would be the object of mirth. While no one would want to interfere with the right of middle-aged men to wear peculiar garb in private, the secret membership of such organisations is incompatible with the open administration of justice. An open register of all memberships for judges, magistrates and court officials would go a long way to dispelling rumours of undue influence. It would also give me one less thing to tease crown prosecutors about.

● The author is a practising solicitor



PATRICK STEVENS

In their footsteps

THE publication of last week's list of new silk contained five barristers who are the sons of judges: Peter Clarke, Henry Ruttle, Jeremy Stuart-Smith, Andrew Popplewell and George Leggett. Not that there is any suggestion of an old boy network: the Lord Chancellor is rigorous in recommending on merit.

The list also broke fresh ground with the first two QC solicitors, Arthur Marriott and Lawrence Collins. Honorary QCs this year included

the well-known academics Professors Michael Zander and Andrew Ashworth, as well as George Staple, the retiring director of the Serious Fraud Office.

Booth update

JUST IN case anyone should get the idea that Cherie Booth, QC, is winding down her practice, Leslie Page, senior clerk at her chambers at 4/5 Gray's Inn Square, says that bookings are already being

taken for cases in May and June. For the next five weeks, meanwhile, Ms Booth has cleared her diary; but only of court work. He says: "She is maintaining her advisory work, even though she is not appearing in court in the run-up to the election."

Her career will continue — PM's wife or not.

Billing and cooing
SOME MAY believe that lawyers in America earn more

money than is good for them, but for Marsha Wans, the daughter of a judge and now former associate at Winston & Strawn, a leading Chicago law firm, it was not enough.

She has pleaded guilty to a charge of prostitution after running an advertisement offering "companionship" to "discreet, sensitive executives and professional gentlemen" at \$30 an hour, a step up from her usual billing rate of \$180.

Great promise

HEADS of Chambers and judges are being asked to donate an annual contribution to help to fund a scholarship established in the memory of Michael Kalisher, QC, the former chairman of the Criminal Bar Association. The scholarship will provide support for students intending to practise at the Bar in England and Wales and who are judged to be of exceptional promise but modest means.

Seeing red

ONE of the positive attributes of courts in the American South is their lack of formality. In the Criminal Bar Association's latest newsletter, David Marshall, the barrister who has represented many prisoners on Death Row, notes that during Halloween last year the walls of the court in Texas were festooned with pumpkins, witches and goblins. The court staff were not wearing costumes.

He says: "Nothing, however, prepared me for the entrance of the judge, a sour, humourless man. Atop his head was a huge red wig. I had no idea how to react, especially when his demeanour indicated that he hadn't the foggiest idea it was there."

SCRIVENOR

STUART & FRANCIS

A bridge too far for the Temple

THE legal Establishment has fired the first shot in what could be a bitter battle over government plans for a new bridge over the Thames in the heart of legal London — Temple Gardens. A leading planning QC, George Bartlett, says that plans to build the 130-metre bridge would break planning laws and fly in the face of conservation policies for Westminster and London.

He also accuses John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, in "a curious inversion of the normal planning process" of coming out in favour of the scheme before any consultation with planning authorities has taken place.

Writing in *Counsel*, the Bar magazine, Mr Bartlett says that "a massive structure across the river with twin 130m towers at Temple Gardens would be in conflict with both national and local planning policies."



Temple Gardens: could this classic view be in danger?

The QC also accuses Mr Gummer of making changes to his department's strategic planning guidance for the Thames. The recently issued revised guidance says that "dramatic visual statements and landmark buildings may be appropriate in exceptional cases". Mr

Bartlett says that it is "insulting" to view the river purely as a development site. The proposed bridge — with twin towers as high as the top of the dome of St Paul's — would dominate the river, the Temple, Somerset House and historic areas beyond.

QUEEN'S COUNSEL

FOUR STEPS TO BECOMING A BARRISTER:

1. PASS BAR FINALS.

2. HOW MANY LAWYERS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB?

(a) 5

(b) 10

(c) HOW MANY CAN YOU AFFORD?

3. DRESS WITH THE DIGNITY THAT BEFITS THE BAR.

4. LEARN THE SECRETS OF THE LAW AT INNS OF COURT DINNERS.

5. GO INTO FAMILY LAW.

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This London and Wales firm has made a big impression recently and attracted some top quality work. It is a firm really going places, making it perfect for an ambitious corporate lawyer with 3-5 years' exp who has good Yellow Book experience and the ability to draft the back-end of prospectuses. Ref: T24458

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To £45,000

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This is a superb opportunity for a private client lawyer with 4-5 years' exp to join this leading media firm as head of the private client department. You will enjoy excellent tax and probate work for some very exciting clients and will soon find a place around the partnership table. No following needed. Ref: T34623

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

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Ambitious litigators - Your career will steam ahead at a rate of knots if you join this niche shipping firm. You will have 1-3 years' exp, ideally in shipping, from a top City firm. You will also need good international experience as this challenging job will often take you abroad. Ref: T28180

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IP/PATENTS

This top 20 City firm has established itself among the very best IP firms and offers a great career to a lawyer with 2-4 years' exp at a leading firm and a science background. Work will include a mix of contentious and non-contentious matters, principally patents but also some trade mark and copyright. Ref: T39029

To £45,000

ENTERTAINMENT

You can be a media star by joining this top 20 City firm with an outstanding entertainment reputation. It needs a firm lawyer with 3-5 years' exp, mainly in non-contentious IP, while copyright and TV experience would also be useful. You will be representing some industry leaders here. Ref: T28029

To £52,000

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This top 15 City firm is starting to build up its capacity to advise on the corporate side of environmental law, making it a very good time to join. In return for your 3-5 years' exp, you will enjoy working for very big clients on some high-profile matters and make rapid progress through the ranks. Ref: T25178

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To £55,000

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LEGAL

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A pro bono groundswell

Frances Gibb on solicitors who work for no charge

For Leigh Day it was a coup, some of the best public relations that solicitors have attracted in recent years. When four years of battling to obtain legal aid for a ground-breaking law suit failed, the London firm said it would take on the action, a test case for victims of smoking, anyway. The costs will run to £3 million, which the firm is willing to carry.

If Leigh Day wins, it will recoup the costs, on the "no win, no fee" basis. But the risks are there — and in the meantime, it will not be paid for the work. The work may not be of pure *pro bono*, in the sense of making no charge at all, but it comes close.

On such a scale, the move was bold and unprecedented. Yet much *pro bono* public (for the public good) work is going on and more is planned. There has been little publicity, but now the first detailed survey of what firms are up to has been carried out by Andrew Boon, the head of Westminster University's law school.

The tradition of providing free public services harks back, he says, to the Middle Ages. But the arrival of the legal aid scheme in 1949 partly relieved lawyers of their obligations. With legal aid under cost controls, solicitors are re-examining what they can do.

The survey looked at 100 firms, ranging from 29-partner outfits to 15-partner firms. Its findings will be published later this year in *Modern Law Review*. Five of the six firms that responded said they did *pro bono* work and gave details. It spanned giving legal advice at law centres and citizens' advice bureaux, handling cases referred by groups such as Liberty, handling Death Row appeals to the Privy Council and giving advice to organisations such as charities. Much of the work in law centres is done by trainees. But senior staff are also involved. One firm estimated it had devoted more than 5,000 hours in the



Ethical action: Gregory Peck represents Brock Peters in *To Kill A Mockingbird*

past five years to Death Row appeals.

Much was informal and records kept were patchy. But Mr Boon concludes that "some large firms in the UK have a small but possibly growing commitment" to *pro bono* work.

A smaller survey by Nottinghamshire Law Society throws up the same kind of picture. It found that among older solicitors, up to a tenth of their time is spent *pro bono*, although much of this work involves sitting on boards of charities, schools and clubs.

With the younger solicitors, the work is more likely to be free legal

advice given direct to clients.

Now, though, there are initiatives to formalise this *pro bono* patchwork. The Solicitors Pro Bono Group, a national committee representing eight firms and chaired by Tony Willis, a Clifford Chance partner, has been set up and is advertising for its first full-time director. About 100 replies have been received. "The idea," he says, "is to raise the profile of *pro bono* work among solicitors nationwide and turn this into an enduring framework for a coherent programme."

David Wilson, a partner with the City firm Simmons & Simmons and chairman of the City of London Law Society Pro Bono working party, says: "Historically, lawyers have been reticent about talking about doing work free. But industry is now leading the way about corporate community involvement and solicitors are slowly picking that up."

But what of the Law Society? The

idea of the Solicitors Pro Bono Group came from Andrew Phillips, solicitor and founder of the Citizenship Foundation. So far, the society has not taken a lead; in 1994 it rejected the idea of imposing a mandatory *pro bono* requirement on the ground that this would help the Government to legal aid. Mr Willis agrees that making the work mandatory would be a "recipe for disaster". But the Law Society has not promoted a culture of *pro bono* work as the American Bar Association has, partly because of the real struggles of many small firms it seeks to represent.

Tony Gilling, the President, says: "It is clear from surveys and anecdotal evidence that a great deal of *pro bono* work by solicitors throughout England and Wales has gone unrecognised. We are a caring profession and do not have to be compelled to provide support to those in need." The way forward, he says, is to build on existing work, and the society will give the *pro bono* group all possible practical support.

Letting people know what is being done so they can find help is now the key aim. There are other initiatives: the London Young Solicitors Group is setting up a register of solicitors in the capital, willing to do *pro bono* work, so they can liaise with the Bar Pro Bono Unit (see Law, March 25). Kit Johnson, a student at the College of Law, is seeking to set up a scheme like the Bar's Free Representation Unit, in which law students can give people advice and help in tribunal cases. There are also groups such as the Environmental Law Foundation (0171-404 1030), a network of lawyers, scientists and others who give initial free advice and in some cases action, as well as groups such as Liberty, and Justice, who help with human rights cases.

On the same panel will be Gill Andrew, an employment law specialist and Christopher Goodchild, an industrial tribunal chairman and an executive member of the European Association of Labour Court Judges.

Adam Taylor suggests millennium-proof measures

How to beat the 2000 clock

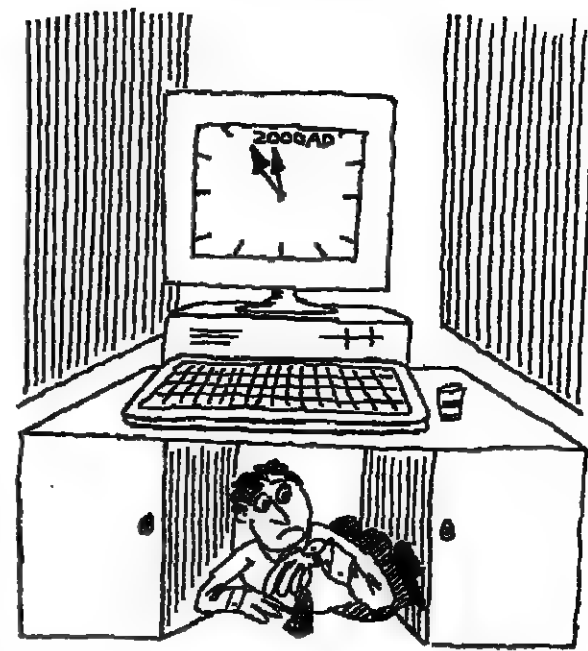
Computer users across the globe are at last beginning to face up to the millennium timebomb — the possibility that computers will fail catastrophically in the year 2000 because they cannot cope with the date change. Estimates put the costs of rectifying the problem in the UK at £30 billion and worldwide at £400 billion.

Will the millennium bomb result in a litigation explosion? Certainly, it raises a host of legal issues requiring urgent attention from specialist information technology lawyers. The number one priority is to ensure millennium-compliance, but users who do not take steps now to identify and protect their legal rights may well forfeit their best chance of minimising the costs.

The legal position will vary from case to case: much will depend on the wording of contracts, as well as the age and type of system, but suppliers could be liable to compensate users for the costs of 2000 compliance or the consequences of 2000 failure.

Hardware and software suppliers are probably liable if it was reasonable for the user to expect the system to last beyond 2000. However, there may be contractual hurdles if, for instance, the supplier has slipped in a clause vetoing or limiting his liability. Such cases will probably be subject to a "reasonableness" test where the courts will weigh up factors, including the parties' relative bargaining power. Generally, courts do not like such clauses.

Time limits apply, the most common being six years from when equipment was supplied (or possibly upgraded), even if the real loss is not suffered until



much later. It could be too late to wait until 2000. Users may need to stop the clock now, either by agreement or by issuing a holding writ.

Before spending vast sums on the problem, those affected must check whether someone else is already obliged to do the work; for instance, under a maintenance contract. If users do not assert their rights, they may be penalised later for not mitigating their losses.

When a company's IT system has been contracted out, the outsource may be contractually bound to ensure the smooth running of the system at all times. Users must ensure now that they are not left high and dry at the end of the millennium.

Any new IT contracts must contain a carefully drafted clause guaranteeing that systems will work properly through January 1, 2000. Users should also beware February 29, 2000 meltdown: years divisible by 100 are not leap years whereas those divisible by 400 are. Does the computer know this?

Year 2000 issues affect much more than just IT contracts. For example, companies could be liable to others if they have a millennium crash. It is unlikely that the usual "act of God" clause in

commercial contracts would apply, so companies should try to protect themselves when entering into contracts that could be affected by a millennium failure.

Conversely, they should check whether other businesses, such as potential trading partners or takeover targets, have compliance difficulties that could in turn rebound on them. Some companies are rumoured to be trying to dump subsidiaries with year 2000 problems.

As the millennium draws nearer, programmers will be in more and more demand. Companies should tighten employment contracts to deter poaching from their IT departments, bearing in mind that courts will strike down non-competition clauses if they are unreasonably wide.

Company directors could also find themselves being sued if they fail to exercise sufficient diligence in managing the company's affairs. They can no longer plead ignorance of the millennium problem and must not simply assume that the IT director will sort it out.

Computer users and the IT industry should work together to defuse the millennium bomb. Litigation should be a last resort.

The author is a partner at Withers solicitors.

Now for woman power

FIVE WORKSHOPS on practical problems faced by women forging legal careers will form the basis of the 1997 Women Lawyer conference on April 12. Top-level panelists will head the sessions.

The conference, organised by the Bar and the Law Society and sponsored by *The Times*, will cover a range of topics, including "rainmaking" (networking for busi-

ness), maternity and paternity leave and flexible working.

Peter Goldsmith, QC, the former Bar chairman, is the moderator in a session on "strategies for when things go wrong". Jenny Lindsay, an assistant solicitor, will de-

scribe how she took her former employer to an industrial tribunal, won £10,000 and survived — career-wise. She says: "If you are being treated unfairly... it is important that you believe in yourself and act on that."

On the same panel will be Gill Andrew, an employment law specialist and Christopher Goodchild, an industrial tribunal chairman and an executive member of the European Association of Labour Court Judges.

Pamela Scriven, QC, will speak from the perspective of the professional conduct committee of the Bar Council. The main sessions include a panel with Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, and a keynote address from Roberta Cooper Ramo, immediate past president of the American Bar Association.

Details: Blair Communications, 0171-722 9731

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LEGAL RECRUITMENT ADVISERS

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 * BMRB Business Survey 1995

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Press Holdings, SCI Entertainment, Finals: Bourne End Properties, Gaskell, Hit Entertainment, Inch Kenneth Kajong Rubber, Martin Currie Pacific, Premiere Group, Reunion Mining, Telex.

Economic statistics: Royal Bank of Scotland oil report; BSA end-February monthly mortgage lending; March purchasing managers' index.

TOMORROW

Interims: UDO Holdings, Finals: Camas, Denison International, Headlam Group, Hewden-Stuart, Johnston Press, La Senza, Princesdale Group, Radam Group, Rugby Estates, Senior Engineering, Ultra Electronics, Walker Greenbank, Yule Catto.

Economic statistics: February final M4 money supply; February net new consumer credit; March official reserves; March provisional M0 money supply.

THURSDAY

Interims: China Investment & Development, Wescol Group, Finals: Laird Group, Rugby Estates, Senior Engineering, United Assurance.

FRIDAY

Interims: None scheduled, Finals: AFA Systems, Economic statistics: Confederation of British Industry March distributive trades survey.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Mail on Sunday: Buy: Premier Oil, Sell: Burnall, Castrol, The Sunday Telegraph: Buy: MFI, Scottish Radio Holdings, Rebus, Kwik Save, The Sunday Times: Buy: Alfred McAlpine, Bourne End, Vickers, Rugby Estates, The Observer: Buy: Booker, J. Sainsbury, Sunday Business: Buy: Bath Press, BSM, Brunner Mond.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Further decline of French trade on horizon for Laird

LAIRD GROUP: Difficult second-half trading conditions for Laird, the industrial group led by John Gardiner, will be reflected in full-year figures on Thursday, which are expected to reveal a small downturn. Pre-tax profits are likely to come out at £66 million compared with £68.1 million last time, with earnings down from 34.4p to 33.7p. However, there should be scope for a 7 per cent increase in the dividend from 12p to 12.8p.

European construction and automotive markets were at best flat last year, while the group's service industries operation suffered from a period of destocking, especially in information technology.

Laird's sealing systems operation in France, which supplies to the likes of Renault, has seen a 30 per cent decline in sales, which is certain to affect margins. A further decline in the French market is expected during the rest of the year.

There are signs of improvement in industrial products as economic growth continues to gather pace.

BEP: Profit forecasts for Bourne End Properties were downgraded for 1996 after disappointing interims. Selwyn Jones, Credit Lyonnais Laing analyst, said:

His pre-tax profit figure of £1 million for the year to the end of December, against £1.1 million last time, allows for the impact of two deals – the July 1996 property swap with Regalian Properties in which it sold a retail portfolio for £17.52 million and acquired a 50 per cent interest in the Waverley Shopping Centre, Edinburgh, for £16 million, and an £8.35 million acquisition from Threadneedle Fund Managers. Mr Jones estimates a 5 per cent increase in net asset value to 85p, allowing for a small rise in the value of the retail parcels and no change for the office portfolio.

UDO HOLDINGS: When the group reported full-year results in November it com-



John Gardiner, chairman of Laird, has had to contend with flat continental markets

mented that trading conditions had been difficult and that sales growth in the reprographics market had been slower than expected. The acquisition of Sarkpoint, UDO's largest competitor in the lucrative London market, should have helped its position. Credit Lyonnais Laing predicts similar pre-tax profits of £3 million for the six months to the end of January for earnings of 6.7p against 6.8p last time. The broker looks for an improvement in the dividend to 7.3p from 6.8p.

HEADLAM GROUP: A good result from floor-coverings should help to lift pre-tax profits for the year to the end of December to £11.5 million from £7.7 million, says Antony Legge at Beeson Gregory, the broker. The analyst pointed out that the major event of last year was the purchase of Gradus Group in December. This will have had no effect in 1996, but should be earnings-enhancing in the current year. The analyst predicts an increase in the dividend from

4.8p to 5.8p from earnings up from 12.2p to 15.4p.

HEWDEEN STUART: Full-year figures tomorrow are expected to show a decline in pre-tax profits from £36.3 million to £29.5 million. Mark Howson, of Beeson Gregory, looks for second-half pre-tax profits of £14.4 million, helped by some improvement in hire rates during the period.

Overall hire rates are believed to have ended the year down around 6 per cent, with rates in unmanned and gener-

al hire being the prime culprits for the weakness. Mobile cranes remain soft despite 85 per cent utilisation, although access and tower cranes have been strong.

NatWest Securities points out that for every £1 increase in turnover profits at Hewden Stuart grow 50p.

JOHNSTON PRESS: Mr Legge marginally upgraded his forecast for the year to the end of December because of better than expected margin improvement at the Emap regional newspapers it bought last year.

He is now looking for pre-tax profits of £23.4 million against £16.8 million with earnings up from 7.9p to 9.6p. He has pencilled in a 2.25p payout compared with 2.1p last time.

RUGBY ESTATES: BZW expects pre-tax profits of £2.1 million against £1.1 million for the year to the end of December. Earnings a share are expected to grow from 4p to 7.7p, with the dividend increasing from 2.18p to 2.4p.

SENIOR ENGINEERING: BZW predicts a sharp fall in pre-tax profits from £22.1 million to £3.7 million in the year to the end of December because of the £29.3 million write-off incurred when Senior sold its thermal engineering business to a management buyout. Bid rumours persist at the group.

UNITED ASSURANCE: This is the first full set of figures to be reported since the merger of Refuge Assurance and United Friendly. NatWest Securities, the broker, is looking for pre-tax profits of £210 million compared with £163.1 million, with the benefits already coming through from cost reductions estimated at £35 million a year.

Earnings are set to rise 31 per cent from 34.5p to 45.1p, while a first-time payment of 18p is forecast.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

American payroll data awaited as interest rate clue

Nervous financial markets, spooked last week by the US Federal Reserve's quarter percentage point interest rate rise and looking for clues to the next likely move, will be given some useful data to chew on in the next few days.

The most widely watched data release of them all, US payrolls, comes on Friday. It is expected to show that US jobs growth slowed to between 160,000 and 205,000 in March after the 247,000 of January and 339,000 in February. This would leave the unemployment rate at, or marginally below, the 5.3 per cent of February. Analysts do not believe that this will move the US any closer to its next change in interest rates.

Another key US indicator, the National Association of Purchasing Managers' March report, is due out today. HSBC James Capel is predicting that the NAPM index will come in at 53, and the market consensus, according to MMS International, is 53.5.

This sort of level, close to February's 53.1, would indi-

cate a steady expansion in manufacturing activity.

Britain's equivalent, the Purchasing Managers' Index for March, also comes out today. The PMI fell to 53.5 in February, from 53.9. This still shows expansion in manufacturing, while prices showed their largest drop since July 1996. Further benign data could help to cool speculation about interest rate rises after the May 1 general election.

On Thursday, the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply will publish the first PMI for Britain's services sector, covering all the industry's sectors apart from retail and wholesale. It is designed to flesh out the British economic data set, which is heavily skewed towards manufacturing, in spite of its dwindling role in the economy.

The Confederation of British Industry will publish its distributive trades survey for March on Friday. It has fallen short of expectations for several months, and economists are predicting little improvement in sentiment this time.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.17	2.01
Austria Sch	20.22	18.72
Belgium Fr	59.30	55.00
Canada \$	2.348	2.185
Cyprus Cyp	0.850	0.795
Denmark Kr	10.99	10.19
Finland Mk	8.81	7.96
France Fr	5.82	5.57
Germany Dr	2.88	2.68
Greece Dr	450	424
Hong Kong \$	13.28	12.28
Iceland	120	100
Ireland P	1.08	1.00
Israel Shk	5.76	5.11
Italy Lire	2879	2679
Japan Yen	216.40	199.40
Malta	0.058	0.053
Netherlands Gld	3.223	2.993
New Zealand \$	2.49	2.27
Norway Kr	11.38	10.58
Portugal Esc	287.00	268.50
S Africa Rd	7.79	6.99
Spain Pta	243.00	226.00
Sweden Kr	13.18	12.18
Switzerland Fr	2.50	2.32
Turkey Lira	219900	199900
USA \$	1.727	1.597

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay's Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Thursday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
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German mark
2.7345 (+0.0348)
Exchange index
98.0 (+1.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2851.4 (+26.7)
FTSE 100
4312.9 (+58.1)
New York Dow Jones
6740.58 (-64.2)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
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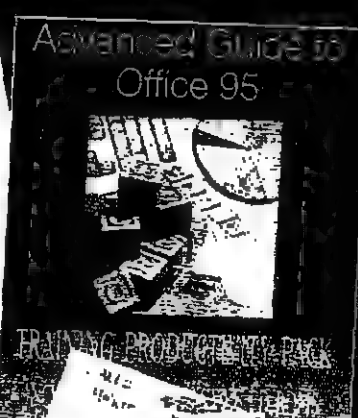
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Tesco to offer credit card and seek bank licence



MacLaurin: cash machines

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TESCO PERSONAL FINANCE, the new banking operation established by Tesco and Royal Bank of Scotland, is set to launch its first major product, the Tesco credit card, in July and is likely to seek a full banking licence in the next few months.

Derek Sach, named yesterday by Tesco and RBS as chief executive of the joint venture, said that negotiations are under way with the main operators in the credit card field to find a partner. Other products will follow in quick succession. "Our aim is to develop Tesco Personal Finance into a mean-

ingful business very quickly, providing a full range of personal finance services and products," he said.

Own-brand Tesco cash machines will begin to appear in stores this year and special areas set aside for personal finance will be tested in the next few months and extended throughout the chain in 1998. The banking operation employs 40 people, a number that will rise to around 1,000 next year.

Mr Sach, 48, has an unusual background for the retail banking job. He was formerly managing director of 3i, the venture capital group, and in 1992 joined Royal Bank of Scotland, where he ran the risk management

and corporate recovery operations. Rowley Ager, 51, Tesco's company secretary, is to be chairman of the new venture.

Ahead of the credit card launch, Tesco, whose chairman is Lord MacLaurin, is to add new features to its Clubcard Plus loyalty card scheme. Cardholders, who can now use their cards only in Tesco stores, are likely to be able to use them elsewhere and in some automatic teller machines. Insurance and savings products, made available through links with Scottish Widows and Direct Line, will follow.

Tesco Personal Finance, in which both sides are to invest an initial £20

million to £25 million, will at first operate under the RBS banking licence. A separate licence is likely to be sought from the Bank of England later this year so that it can take decisions and act as a separate bank.

Supermarkets, looking for ways of increasing their share in the highly competitive grocery market, have been stampeding into retail banking. Sainsbury's Bank, a joint venture between J Sainsbury and Bank of Scotland, is already up and running while Sainsbury has formed an alliance with Abbey National and Wm Morrisons with the Midland. Asda has so far not gone into banking.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Estate agents predict rise in house prices

THE traditional spring surge of new properties coming on to the market has begun early this year, according to a survey by the Birmingham Midshires Building Society to be published today. The Birmingham Midshires/ICM Housing Monitor shows four out of five UK estate agents are now confident that the market is gathering pace and they expect prices to rise 6 per cent this year. They say that house prices have steadied over the past six months, but are still 10 per cent higher than a year ago. According to the Nationwide Building Society price index for March, published last week, prices were up 9.6 per cent over the year and 1.6 per cent in the month, the biggest monthly rise in two years. The Halifax is due to publish its own findings for March today.

According to Birmingham Midshires, the biggest price rises are expected in London, at 10.7 per cent, and the South East, 7.8 per cent. In Scotland, a rise of just 2.52 per cent is forecast. Demand is heaviest for three and four-bedroom homes, but estate agents are finding one-bedroom properties difficult to sell, with first-time buyers going straight on to two and three-bedroom properties. In London, seven out of ten estate agents said gazumping has become a problem.

Diamond prospect

RTZ and De Beers may be invited to join local mining companies to exploit the giant Lomonosov diamond field near Arkhangelsk in northern Russia, which is estimated to be worth as much as \$12 billion. Vitaly Fortynin, general manager of Severalmaz, which owns the licence for the field, said he was considering working with foreign partners. This is despite opposition to foreign involvement from the Russian Parliament.

Salehurst seeks £2m

SALEHURST, the specialist paper supplier, yesterday said that it intended to raise £2 million through a placing on the stock market. The company, which is expected to be valued at between £15 million and £18 million, will use some of the money to develop its stock management software package. About £2.5 million of existing shares will be sold in the placing, leaving Michael Jackson, the group's founder and chief executive, with about 60 per cent of the company's equity.

BA Ryder deal complete

BRITISH AIRWAYS yesterday completed the transfer of its fleet management and maintenance services to Ryder, the vehicle rental and distribution services company based in Slough. The deal comes after four months of consultation with staff and trade unions. Of British Airways' 486 original fleet management staff, 415 will move to Ryder. The remainder have accepted offers of early retirement, voluntary severance or jobs elsewhere in British Airways.

Tricorder acquisition

TRICORDER TECHNOLOGY, the company which created a Department of Trade and Industry award-winning 3D scanner, has announced the acquisition of 3D Research for an undisclosed sum. Tricorder also priced its offer for subscription on Offer at 70p per share. The share issue will raise £3 million, valuing the company at £10 million. Sun Microsystems has already declared an interest in the distribution rights for Tricorder's scanner for Japan and the Far East.

Phone service launched

M1, the new Singapore mobile phone operator partly owned by Cable and Wireless, will today launch the first rival mobile phone service to Singapore Telecom, which is state owned. Customers will be offered a range of tariffs, and services such as voice mail and call barring. More than 16,000 customers have used M1's service on a trial basis since December.

Dogfight for sales

AIRBUS could be in line to sell as many as 12 new aircraft to Silkair, the regional division of Singapore Airlines. However, it faces stiff competition from Boeing, which is believed to be the favourite because of its greater variety. It is not known how much the deal will be worth as negotiations are still going on. A final decision will be made this month.

Higher tax rate on insurance from today

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

HOLIDAYMAKERS, householders and motorists face higher bills for insurance policies with the introduction today of a rise in insurance premium tax (IPT) of up to 15 per cent.

The increase was announced in the Budget in November. All travel insurance policies sold by travel agents will be subject to IPT at 17.5 per cent.

Travel policies sold by other providers, including insurance companies, brokers, banks and building societies, will be subject to IPT at a rate of 4 per cent, as will motor and household policies.

The move will hit the travel industry hard. Some high street companies make up to 40 per cent commission when

they sell policies alongside a package holiday.

The Association of British Insurers, whose 440 members opposed the increase in IPT, said the travel trade was likely to offer "free" insurance to holidaymakers in order to reduce the tax to 4 per cent. However, a spokesman added: "In the end, it will be the customer who has to foot the bill."

At present travel agents sell more than 75 per cent of all travel policies as a direct add-on to holiday bookings. Many require holidaymakers to take out compulsory travel insurance to qualify for a discount on the price of their package.

Keith Betton, spokesman for the Association of British Travel Agents, said the discrepancy in rates was totally unjustified.

He added: "We would be happy if the IPT rate was increased to a flat 17.5 per cent for everyone, but we object to being singled out. It may be that the travel industry subsidises the cost of insurance by increasing the cost of the holiday."

The move to increase IPT was vehemently opposed by the insurance industry, which believes that a future Chancellor will raise the tax further.

Although the industry greeted the introduction of IPT with dismay, the public has, so far, paid up without complaint. The tax applies to all general insurance except life assurance or pensions.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, defended the rise in the tax on the ground that the insurance industry was under-taxed compared with those in other European countries. Insurers believe that the Chancellor would like to bring the tax up to the same level as VAT at 17.5 per cent for all classes of insurance.

The Association of British Insurers has lobbied long and hard for the tax to be scrapped or frozen at current levels.



Weight watch: the most recent UK study classified 16.5 per cent of women as obese

Obesity places heavy burden on the NHS

By PAUL DURMAN

A NEW pressure group claims that a dramatic increase in the number of British adults suffering from obesity is costing the National Health Service hundreds of millions of pounds a year.

The International Obesity Task Force (IOTF) says that the problem costs developed nations between 2 and 8 per cent of their national health budgets. The IOTF's first newsletter states: "This represents a major fraction of national healthcare budgets comparable with, for example, the total cost of cancer therapy."

Richard Palmer, chief executive of Alizyme, a British company that is trying to develop drugs to tackle weight problems, estimated that the cost of obesity in the UK was probably about 4 per cent.

With the NHS budget set at £33 billion, that implies an annual cost of £1.3 billion.

The IOTF says that over the past ten years the UK has suffered a worse rise in obesity than any other country in Europe.

The most recent UK study, in 1995, classified 15 per cent of men and 16.5 per cent of women as obese. That is still better than in the US, where

about one in five men and one in four women have serious weight problems.

Dr Palmer said: "We need to get the healthcare community to recognise that this is not just a failure of people to live their lives properly. There's actually a disease and medical condition there with a sound medical basis to it. It needs to be taken into account when providing healthcare in the future."

Alizyme is working with Oxford Molecular to develop a lipase inhibitor, a drug that would work by reducing the amount of fat the body can absorb from food.

Partners pursues flotation

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

PARTNERS Holdings, the stationery retailer, plans to float on the London Stock Exchange next month through a placing that it hopes will raise up to £7 million and value the company at around £25 million.

Most of the cash will be invested in new point of sale technology, a new headquarters and warehouse and an expansion from 80 to 220 branches.

Up to £1.5 million will be shared by three directors, Michael Scorey, chairman, Peter Davey, chief executive, and Phillip Birt, finance director. Between them, they own 53 per cent of the company.

Partners branches, selling mainly personal stationery, are in the North West, Midlands and Home Counties. The expansion will be over the next four years.

Mr Davey said: "Partners has exploited a niche created by the traditional high street retailers who are now concentrating on other products. We have grown our market share to 3.06 per cent of a £1.4 billion market."

In the year to March 30, 1996, the company made a pre-tax profit of £1.17 million. In the following 40 weeks, to January 4, profit rose to £1.68 million. Turnover has grown from £19.7 million in 1993-94 to £27 million in 1995-96.

Middleton trades down

GOOD to hear that Peter Middleton is happily back in the saddle. With 15 months under his belt as chief executive of Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank, the former monk is enjoying his most recent purchase — a Yamaha 650cc Virago motorcycle. Middleton might have traded down from the Suzuki 850cc he acquired during his Lloyd's of London days, but the new beast is fine for trips about town with Anita, his young wife. "It's a terrific bike — it will still do 70 miles per hour," he says, somewhat tongue in cheek. "Anita likes it as well. We go shopping on it." They biked to the England v Italy football game recently, and used it for last year's Three Tenors concert. The trip took less time than the Middletons anticipated. "We were there at seven o'clock with about four other people."

Ticked off

CLOCKS may have been put forward the length and breadth of Britain on Sunday, but bosses at Yorkshire Electricity chose to go back in time. The company sent out a press notice offering customers extended meter reading hours to take advantage of the lighter nights. In an embarrassing display of crossed wires, however, the notice informed customers that clocks were going back thanks to British Summer Time.

Slipped Tug

PAUL MCKINLEY, general manager of the Tug Inns chain of trendy pubs, almost



It all adds up: some comic relief from Alan Greenspan

missed the boat to his own wedding reception at the weekend. Married in Mexico earlier this year, the groom was expected in France on Good Friday, where his wife Zoe was busy organising a bonfire for 120 guests. Al-

ready behind schedule, McKinley jumped on his motorbike, raced from London to the South Coast, and lost his passport along the way. Ever resourceful, McKinley charmed his way on to a ferry, but will he ever make it back?

Fun at the Fed

ALAN GREENSPAN, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, and Arthur Levitt, his counterpart at the SEC, were playing golf at the Chevy Chase Club. According to *The Washington Post*, Greenspan told a joke three patients at a mental institution wanted to be released. The head psychiatrist gave them a simple test. What is two plus two? The second said "Wednesday". The third said "four", and was free to go. "By the way," said the doctor as the man was leaving, "how did you know the answer?" "Easy," said the patient, "I just added five plus Wednesday." As simple as Greenspan's economic theories.

Going Dutch

BANKERS with a social conscience? ING Group has set up an advisory council on social and strategic matters. As a sounding board for the group's overall strategic development, and for monitoring developments within society across the globe. Twelve of its 15 members, drawn from "various sectors of society", are Dutch. Sir William Rytie, vice-chairman of ING Barings, is the only one to hail from the United Kingdom. I am told that only expenses will be paid for the members.

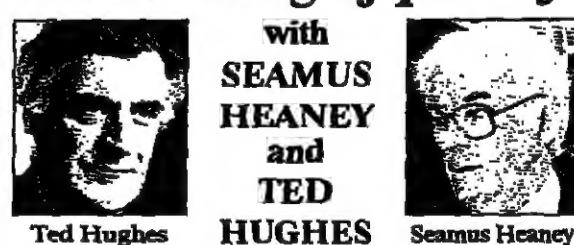
ASDA is encouraging its customers to dig deep into their borders, if not their pockets. With the daffodils out and the grass growing, the gardening departments of the supermarket chain are going VAT-free from yesterday to the end of the week.

MORAG PRESTON

THE TIMES CITY DIARY



THE TIMES & DILLONS An evening of poetry



with SEAMUS HEANEY and TED HUGHES

READERS of *The Times* are invited to an evening with two of the most celebrated contemporary poets, Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes, on Monday, April 14, at 7.30pm, at the Institute of Education in London.

The *Times/Dillons Evening of Poetry* marks the publication of Heaney and Hughes' new poetry anthology, *The School Bag* (Faber, £20 hard, £12.99 soft), a companion volume to their highly successful *The Rattle Bag*.

The poets will be introduced by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and will then read from their selection, which includes works from all periods of English poetry, from the earliest Anglo-Saxon to the speech-making poets of the 20th century.

Tickets are £10 (£7.50 concessions for OAPs, students and unemployed, subject to ID), which includes 12 off copies of the hardback edition of *The School Bag*. To book, call Dillons on 0171-467 1613, fax the coupon below on 0171-467 1690, e-mail orders@gower.dillons.org.uk or post the coupon with remittance.

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Carl Mortished on how a treaty boosted Cairn

Oil group to extract gas from troubled water

In December, Bangladesh and India signed an historic agreement, bringing to an end a 20-year battle over the right to extract water from the Ganges, a lifeline for both countries, flowing from the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal. Thousands of miles away in London, news of the settlement caused the share price of a minor oil and gas company to spring into life. For several months it had hovered at 350p, but over the next fortnight Cairn Energy gained almost a pound and since then has shot up a further £2, a rise of 85 per cent in three months.

Beneath the Ganges Delta, there are sedimentary rocks that contain oil and gas deposits. But their value has been obscured by the row between the two countries about resources on the surface. It began two decades ago, when India built a dam, diverting water during the dry season to Calcutta, in order to remove silt from its port. In Bangladesh, the lost water was threatening the livelihoods of 30 million farmers, souring relations with India and causing mass migrations.

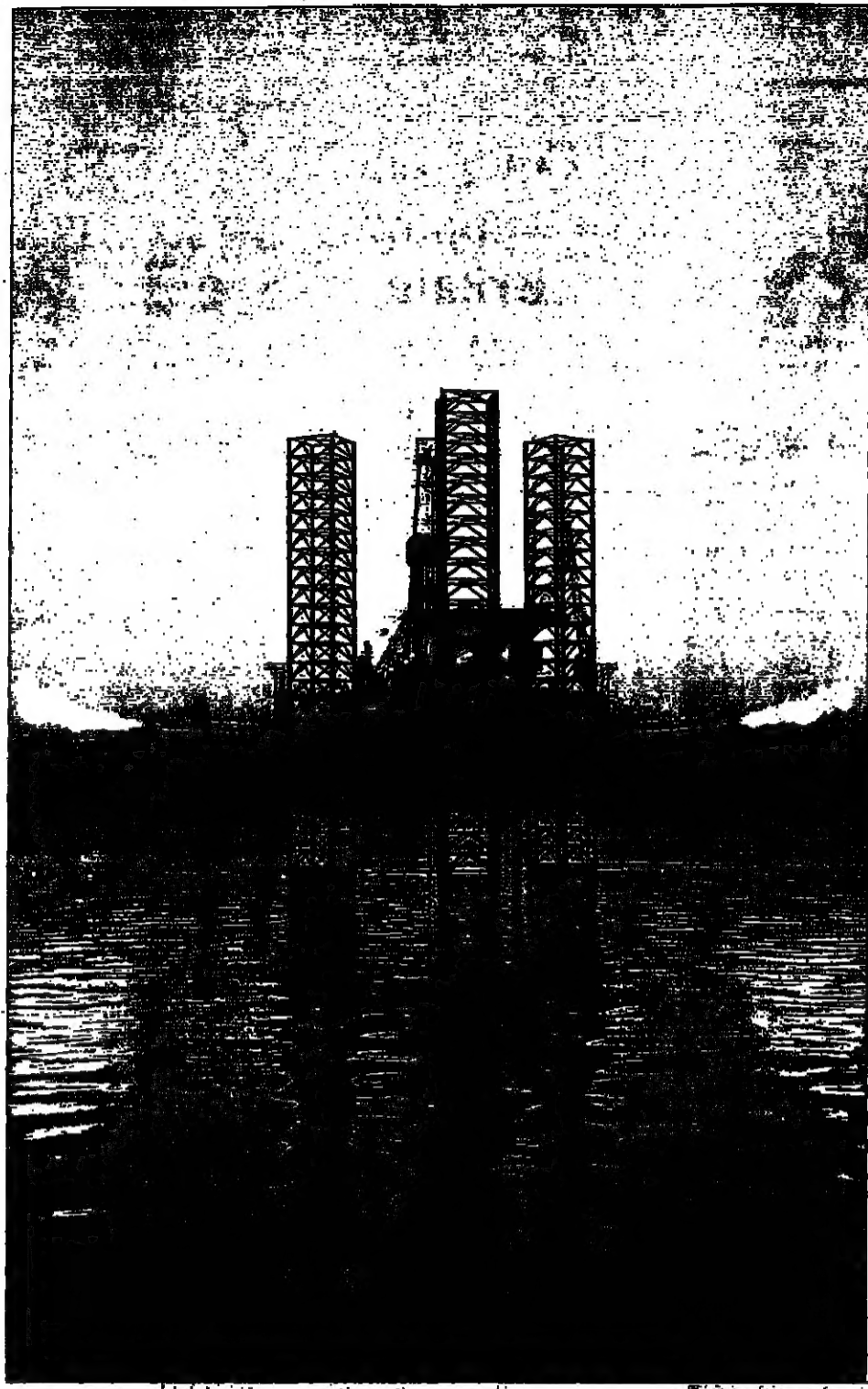
The 30-year treaty should open the door to another prize. Without agreement over water, the huge gas reserves in the Bay of Bengal might never find their way to power stations in India. Less than five years ago, Cairn Energy was a penny stock, a £6 million Scottish oil explorer that emerged from the stable of Ivory & Sims, the fund manager. Today it is worth a billion pounds and the reason is water, gas and the huge risk taken by Bill Gammell, Cairn's chief executive, in Bangladesh.

Gammell set up Cairn Energy Management in the late 1970s and ten years later reversed the company into Calsonic Offshore Oil, later listing the group and changing its name to Cairn Energy. In 1992 the company raised £6 million in a one-for-one share issue at 27p, securing the backing of a small number of important shareholders, including Mercury Asset Management.

Gammell is an all-or-nothing man; he describes Cairn's strategy as "grow or go". Any asset that cannot be made to grow is shed and the philosophy was applied ruthlessly, selling North Sea assets when Gammell realised Cairn could make no impact without being an operator. Likewise, Cairn's Gulf of Mexico assets were spun off via a £42 million flotation and listing on Nasdaq.

The key event in Cairn's fortunes was when Gammell met Michael Watts, whose company Holland Sea Search had been prospecting for oil in South-East Asia. Watts was looking for a partner to acquire acreage in Bangladesh.

According to Watts, gas is an old story in Bangladesh but development has been hampered by political upheavals and the perception that the price isn't worth the risk. Shell had done extensive surveys of the country, but left in the 1980s. A military, left-wing government was not friendly to big oil companies; no one believed there was a domestic



The Sangu field transformed perceptions of Bangladesh as Cairn's share price soared

market for the gas and the prospects offshore were thought too risky. But in 1991 Bangladesh held democratic elections. Two years later it had its first licensing round. To the delight of Gammell and Watts, the majors did not turn up and the field was clear for Cairn and Holland Sea Search. "The big boys said they would not drill wildcats unless they could export," explains Gammell. "Commercially, it was seen as difficult. Petrobrasil, the state oil company, was the only buyer." They jointly picked up blocks 15 and 16, one of which contained a known gas discovery. The acreage was huge, equivalent to 75 North Sea blocks and seismic surveys suggested the geological trend that had produced gasfields onshore continued offshore. Cairn was convinced it could replicate the one in two success rate of the onshore exploration in its offshore blocks. In 1993 Cairn took control of its partner Holland Sea Search in a £17

million share offer, a transaction that gave Cairn 100 per cent control over both blocks, a deal which today looks absurdly cheap.

Cairn's problem was that it had assets, but no cash to exploit them. It needed funds to drill a wildcat well in Bangladesh and Gammell was desperate not to give away any upside. "The key to Cairn is to take bold positions," he said, but good sense in the oil industry dictates that risk is shared. In December 1995, Cairn's board was about to invite a partner to help to fund the £5 million cost of the Sangu-1 well, 35 miles southwest of the port of Chittagong. Gammell said: "I was determined that we should drill the well on our own. But it is unheard of in the oil and gas industry. Only the big boys drill wells on their own."

So Gammell went to the City for money. A share placing with Mercury Asset Management raised £4.5 million, worth about 5 per cent of the com-

pany. The well was a success: the Sangu field contains more than a trillion cubic feet of gas, about four times the size of typical oil or gas discoveries in mature North Sea provinces.

Having bagged his quarry, Gammell was prepared to talk to partners: Sangu transformed the perception of Bangladesh and Cairn's share price doubled. Gammell believes that on a low-risk basis, there are at least three or four more Sangu-sized gasfields to be discovered. Last July Cairn brought in Halliburton, the US oil services group, which took a quarter share of Sangu in return for providing half of the development costs for a 40-mile pipeline to Chittagong.

But this is only the beginning, as Cairn is contemplating an even bigger joint venture with Shell. Bangladesh is one of the world's poorest countries with per capita income in 1993 of \$1,290. Only 15 per cent of the country has access to electricity and even at current consump-

tion there is a gas supply shortfall of 150 million cubic feet (mcf) per day. Bangladesh is liberalising its economy under World Bank tutelage, growing at a steady 4 per cent a year and could easily absorb the supply from a further two or three Sangu fields. Moreover, Cairn is getting a decent price for its gas. Cairn's production-sharing contract with Petrobrasil is struck at more than \$2 per thousand cubic feet, compared with \$1.40 per mcf in the North Sea.

But Shell's interest in Cairn and Bangladesh has a much wider remit. The oil major could well bid alongside Cairn in the country's second oil licensing round. Bids must be submitted in July and this time there will be long queues at the door. The prize is bigger, not only because of Cairn's success, but also because of the prospect of gas exports to its rapidly industrialising neighbour.

India is crying out for gas. The country intends to import liquefied natural gas at \$4 per mcf. Such prices make a pipeline across the Bay of Bengal, the natural route to rapidly expanding cities like Madras, a highly attractive proposition. For projects of this magnitude, Cairn would need the financial clout and expertise of Shell, but Shell also needs Cairn. As Gammell explains, smaller companies like Cairn can present a more friendly face to governments in developing countries than the big multinationals. "There is possibly the apprehension of intimidation. I suspect the culture is different in a large company."

Cairn has already got a toehold in India, producing 6 per cent of its oil production since the takeover of Command, the Australian company, last year, placing the Ravva field under Cairn's control. The pieces of Cairn's South Asian energy play are coming together, but they are not quite complete. Doubters question whether Cairn will find enough Sangu-sized fields to justify its expansion and whether the political climate in Delhi and Dhaka that resolved the water dispute will endure. There is also the key question of Shell's pool of cash, which is likely to be larger than the mere opportunity to partner Cairn in the forthcoming licensing round.

Gammell is bemused by those who think Cairn's share price is frothy. Asked whether he is worried about the price, he says: "You mean the risk of a bid? Pressed further, he explains: 'The share price is higher than the value of what you can touch, but in a year's time it may look cheap.'"

Past performance would suggest he is right, but Cairn seems to have enjoyed more than its share of luck. However, Bangladesh has not recently been blessed with good fortune. Perhaps Cairn is simply dipping into the luck of this impoverished country which, having secured the village water supply, might now be able to bring light into homes.

A double helping of fame

Frane and Fortune
Channel 5, 8.00pm

This "intimate glimpse into the lifestyles of the rich and famous" is a television echo of *Hell* magazine. Michael Caine, Ivana Trump and Lennox Lewis are lined up for future programmes but we kick off with a double helping of celebrity in the glamorous shapes of Eva Herzigova and Tico Torres. Hers is the bust in the Wonderbra ads and he is the drummer from the Bon Jovi rock band. Last year they got married in what the commentary calls a fairytale wedding. We meet them in Palm Beach, Florida. There is to be a party to celebrate an exhibition of Tico's paintings. The commentary tells us it will be a glittering event and that Eva's dress will be stunning. Facing the camera in their everyday clothes, the couple are not great conversationalists but they are there for what they are, not what they say.

Timewatch: Forgotten Allies
BBC2, 9.30pm

Deiving into a little-known corner of the Second World War, Paul Elston's film is a tribute to the Karen hill tribe of Burma. When the Japanese invaded in 1942, the majority of Burmese were only too happy to throw off the British colonial oppressor. The Karen, many of them Christians, were an exception. They fought with the Allies and played an important part in the final defeat of the Japanese. But veterans of the campaign are bitter that their loyalty to Britain was not repaid. When Burma became independent, the Karens, who were hoping to set up their own state, were ruthlessly crushed. The Atlee Government is accused of standing by and allowing it to happen. The Karens have been involved in a civil war with the Burmese regime ever since. Many have recently fled and are refugees in Thailand.

Witness: Babies Behind Bars
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The cameras enter Askham Grange Open Prison for women near York where more than half the inmates are mothers. Some have had their babies while inside, others gave birth on the outside. The difficulties of combining motherhood and a prison sentence are the subject of Jane Beckwith's docu-



Murder reconstructed (BBC1, 10.30pm)

mentary. The film does not try to judge. Some will say the women bring it on themselves. Against that, it is rightly pointed out that male prisoners do not face the same problems. What notably dispenses is that Askham Grange promotes a caring regime. For women whose babies are with them, there are special facilities which seem adequate, even generous. But material comfort cannot compensate for emotional stress, particularly when at 8 months the babies leave the prison to be cared for elsewhere.

Rough Justice: Murder in the Streets
BBC1, 10.30pm

For its 25th case of alleged miscarriage, the *Rough Justice* team turns to the killing of a young woman in a night club in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1990. Penny Laine, aged 19, died after a piece of broken glass severed her jugular vein. Steven Craven was convicted of murder and is serving life. He ran from the night club with a bleeding finger, dodged the police and gave a false name and address to the hospital where he had the wound treated. Two days later he flew to New York. But the programme seeks to show that the case against Craven was circumstantial and sometimes contradictory. It accuses the police of so convincing themselves of his guilt that they ignored other leads and says that potentially crucial evidence was not disclosed to the defence. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Sound of Masks
Radio 3, 9.25pm

In some way or other, Sir Peter Hall simply had to be involved with this series about the role masks played in the evolution of theatre. It was Hall's production of the *Oresteia* at the Olivier Theatre, London, in 1982 that had all the actors wearing masks, as they did in Ancient Greece. It didn't please everybody, but it was a bold attempt to get back to basics. Neither Hall as presenter, nor any of his contributors tonight has anything but praise for masks and what they contribute to an actor's interpretation of a role and the spectator's feeling of involvement. I liked Hall's equating of the tragic actor's mask with the welder's: "It enables you to do something so white hot that you would not dare look at it without using the mask."

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe returns with *Land* 8.00 Dave Pearce 12.00 Jo Whitey, includes at 1.15pm the *Net* 2.00 Nick Campbell 4.00 *News* 6.15 *Newsbeat* 6.30 *Evening Session* with Steve Lamacq 8.30 John Peel 10.30 Mary Ann Hobbs 1.00am Claire Sargeant 4.00 Clive Wain

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 *Wake Up to Wogan* 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thewler 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 *Hoyes* over Britain 8.30 *As Time Goes By* (9.15) 8.00 *Forever in Blue Jeans* 10.00 *Explorer II* with *Life* (9.45) 10.30 *The Jamesons* 12.00am *Cricket* 1.00am Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am *Morning Reports* 8.00 *The Breakfast Programme*, includes *Radio Preview* 9.00 *The Magazine* 12.00 *Midday* with *Mail* 2.00pm *Ruscoe* on *Five* 4.00 *John Inverdale* 7.00 *News* 7.30 *The Tuesday Match* introduced by Simon Mann, includes a look ahead to the weekend's World Cup qualifying matches 8.30 *The Galtrop Major* 10.00 *Britain Election Night* 12.00 *After Hours* with Vincent Hanna 2.00am *Up All Night* with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

6.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Wier 7.00 Paul Ross 8.00 Scott Chisholm 10.20 *Lorraine Kelly* 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 *Peter Dinkley* 7.00 *Max Doo's Sportszone* 10.00 *James White* 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am *On Air*, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Locatelli (Concerto Grosso in D, Op 1 No 9); Dvorak (Symphony No 5 in F); Mozart (Violin Sonata in F, K447); Britten (Choral Fantasia (Scherzo No 2 in B flat minor, Op 31); Chopin (Vespers Solennes de Confession, K339) 9.00 *Morning Collection*, includes Rimsky-Korsakov (Czardas, Russian Easter Festival); Haydn (Piano Trio in G, H XV 19); Maxwell Davies (Pavane for Stronness; Yearning Ground); Britten (Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes) 10.00 *Musical Encounters*, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Tchaikovsky (Sinfonia, Die Morgen, Die Tagesszeiten, part 1); York Bowen (Horn Concerto); Colin Matthews (Night Music); York Bowen (Toccata); Schumann (Cello Concerto in A minor); Elgar (Overture, Fellowship) 12.00 *Composer of the Week*: Amy Beach 1.00pm The BBC Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, conductor Carmo Vanska, includes Liszt (Symphony No 3 in E major, Die Ideale); Krachaturian (Cello Concerto); Beethoven (Symphony No 8 in F) 2.15 Ensemble, Penny Gore introduces a recital by the Russian Trio Shostakovitch (Piano Trio No 1); Beethoven (Piano Trio in D, Op 70 No 1, Ghost) (r) 3.00 *Purcell and the Famed Italian Masters*, Richard Boothby traces the Italian music that Purcell might have known and the extent to which it influenced him and later composers. Includes Vivaldi (Capriccio on 12 Notes); Purcell (Sonata in 4 in G minor); Vivaldi (Three Passagels); Ciaconna in G; Purcell (Sper Overture, Fellowship) 3.35 The BBC Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, conductor Junichi Hirokami, Peter Donohoe, piano and Jane Watts, organ. Debussy

RADIO 4

6.55am *Shipping Forecast* (LW) 6.00 *News* 6.10 *Farming Today* 6.25 *Prayer for the Day* 6.30 *Today*, includes *Thought for the Day* 6.40 *Reaching the Stars* 6.55 *Giant Wonders* (25) 8.00 *News* 9.05 *Call Robin Lunn*, topical discussion with the guest of the day 10.00 *News*; *Your Place or Mine?*; *Kevin's Story* (75). The story of a 17-year-old Canadian boy who was involved in an accident when driving while drunk. He was not imprisoned and yet his victim's family approved (r) 10.00 *Daily Service* (LW) 10.15 *On This Day* (LW) 10.30 *Woman's Hour*, with Wendy Austin, includes a look at new research into the possible hereditary aspects of anorexia nervosa 11.30 *Madeline Now*, a look at the state of modern health care with Geoff Watts 12.00 *News*; *You and Yours*, consumer news and current affairs with Lesley Riddoch 12.25pm *Word of Mouth*, a new series of programmes in which Russell Davies explores words and the way we speak. This week he looks at the language of courtship (12) 12.55 *Weather* 1.00 *The World at One*, with Nick Clarke 1.40 *The Archers* (r) 1.55 *Shipping Forecast* 2.00 *News*; *Books and Company*, Jim Crace talks about his new novel *Quarantine*. Plus John Walsh looks at a new poetry anthology (4/5) (r) 2.30 *Kiri*, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa talks about her life and her music to June Knox-Mawer. Today she recalls her move from the London Opera House, where she studied, to the Royal Opera House, where she made her debut (2/4) (r) 3.00 *The Afternoon Shift*, with Jane Marland 4.00 *News* 4.05 *Kaleidoscope*, Paul Vaughan reads a new novel from Henri Kureishi and hears a classic

set of jazz recordings revitalised through modern digital techniques 4.45 *Short Story*: *Fools Gold*, read by Mark Mulholland 5.00 *P4*, with Kevin Boucek and Charlie Lee-Potter 5.50 *Shipping Forecast* 6.55 *Weather* 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* 6.30 *No Commitments*, Simon Brett's comedy following the lives of three sisters, with Rosemary Leach, Nicole Pagett and Celia Imrie (3/5) (r) 7.00 *News* 7.05 *The Archers* 7.20 *The Health Lecture Discussion*, a discussion, chaired by Sue MacGregor, examining issues raised in the 1997 lecture series. With Patricia J. Williams, Professor Stuart Hall, Mark Kohn and Professor Roger Scutten 8.00 *Science Now*, Peter Evans reports on a recent study of human bones (r) 8.30 *The New Sexual History*, another chance to hear the series in which Gillian Rice explores human sexual behaviour (1/4) 9.00 *In Touch*, Peter White with news and features to visually impaired people 9.30 *Kaleidoscope* (r) 9.55 *Weather* 10.00 *The World Tonight*, with Isabel Hilton 10.45 *Book at Bedtime*: *Feeding in the Dark*, by Seamus Deane. Read by Stephen Ross (7/8) 11.00 *Madeline Now*, a look at the state of modern health care with Geoff Watts 11.30 *Plain Tales from the Rhododendrons*, a series exploring the lives of the officer classes in the decade after the Second World War (2/3) (r) 12.00 *News* incl 12.27am *After Hours*, by Neil Deniro. Read by Joseph McFadden (2/3/5) 12.48 *Shipping Forecast* 1.00 *As We Were*

FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.3, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 94.8, LW 198; MW 702, RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 682, 683, WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

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Computer crime costs business £200m each year

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

A NEW breed of sophisticated, computer-literate criminal is preying on UK banks and big businesses and costing firms hundreds of millions of pounds every year.

Skilled in information technology and adept at stealing by stealth, professional gangs specialise in breaking into businesses each time new equipment is installed.

The Association of British Insurers calculates that computer crime costs businesses £200 million a year. The Home Office estimates that the combination of lost equipment and business interruption after such crimes costs the United Kingdom economy £1 billion every year.

The growth in fraud, theft and computer crime is fuelled by the high resale value of hardware and computer chips. The latter can fetch up to 80 per cent of their original value on the black market.

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